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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-177 *13 September 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-Israeli Talks Resume in Tiberias

Third Crossing To Open

TA1209165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel, has said that there are encouraging signs regarding Syria's commitment to the peace process, although in his Damascus speech, al-Asad criticized Jordan and the PLO for the agreements they made with Israel.

In reply to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus, who is covering the talks near the Sea of Galilee, al-Tarawinah said that Jordan and Israel are in the midst of a process of bilateral talks that do not impact on the other tracks. In his view, there are some issues that could even serve as positive precedents for the other tracks. When asked to sum up the first day of deliberations, al-Tarawinah said that in general he is pleased, although no real progress was made.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 12 September adds that in today's talks at the Sea of Galilee, Israeli and Jordanian negotiators "agreed to open a third border crossing, about 20 km south of the lake, in October."]

Al-Tarawinah Comments

JN1209181294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The first day of the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks has concluded at the Israeli Cultural Center in Tiberias. Chief Jordanian negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah spoke to reporters about the main topics of negotiations, which are water, border, and the northern border crossing. He said the objective of the negotiations is to achieve a common ground on the issues discussed.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] Well, yes, definitely, we do not have very much matching positions. This is the essence of negotiations. We want to bridge whatever gaps there are, provided that we stick to the essentialities, the principles involved, which are embodied and as contemplated in the common agenda and the subagendas of these subcommissions that you alluded to—water, security, and borders and territorial matters. This is the purpose of the whole negotiations—trying to achieve the common grounds on these issues. Of course when we have our meetings we have different points of views, some of them are technical. And we are in the process of trying to find the common grounds on that.

Well, how soon, how late is governmental decision, of course, they will decide. [sentence as heard] What we are trying to do here is to do our technical homework. We have to present it to the government—the nature of [word indistinct], what structure we are talking about, the purposes of this bridge, and basically I think that it will be third country national persons and tourist groups similar to the southern crossing point. And, technically, I think there is no problems in that, and we have agreed on that. (?They) are still examining the timespan for finalizing the technicalities of this.

[Unidentified correspondent] And the location?

[Al-Tarawinah] The location is—I think they agreed upon on that.

[Correspondent] Where?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, Al-Shaykh Husayn area, which is an old bridge that was destroyed in '48, but I do not know if the new bridge will be exactly on the site, plus or minus some meters. I do not know if it is to the left or the right. But the government will decided when it will be opened. [end recording]

Border Points Demarcated

TA1309072494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli and Jordanian experts several days ago finished the demarcation of 12 points along the border between the two countries from al-'Aqabah to al-Hammah. The points concerned are six marks on each side of the border which will serve as reference points for future measurements.

The talks between the Israeli and Jordanian delegations at Lake Tiberias' Bet Gavri'el resume this morning. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the president of Jordan's travel agents associations has been invited to attend an international tourism conference in the Galilee next month.

Security Committee Fails To Achieve Results

JN1209190694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Report by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid from the Erez crossing point in Gaza; from the "With The Events" program]

[Excerpt] A session of the Security Committee concluded a few minutes ago at the Coordination and Liaison Department headquarters at the Erez crossing point. The session was attended by General 'Uzi Dayan for Israel and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq Yahya for the Palestinians. The meeting involved discussions on the release of Palestinian detainees, safe passage, and the differences between the Israelis and Palestinian over the work of the [Israeli] Defense Force and the powers they are given on the common roads and the areas surrounding Gush Qatif.

The session concluded with the two parties failing to achieve any result. There was also no progress in the topics that were discussed, as noted by Hasan 'Asfur.

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[Begin recording] [Palestinian delegate Hasan 'Asfur] There is no progress. The Israelis are insisting on their position, and I believe the meetings of this committee will halt until we hold consultations with the brother president [Yasir 'Arafat]. Personally, I think there is no need to continue discussions in this committee.

[Abu-Zayid] In which topics did you fail to reach any results?

['Asfur] All topics. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shohat Meets 'Arafat, Gives $5 Million in Taxes

TA1209171994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Israel today gave the Palestinian Authority [PA] $5 million, collected in Value Added Tax on goods imported to the self-rule areas via Israeli ports. This was announced by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat after meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. Shohat said the two sides had reached an agreement for the speedy transfer in the future of millions of shekels from taxes to the PA. The finance minister also told reporters that a larger number of Palestinians would be allowed to work in Israel and more agricultural produce would be imported from Gaza and Jericho.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 12 September carries a recorded passage of Finance Minister Shohat's remarks in which he says: "We discussed investments in the region and he said something about quadripartite talks on regional economic issues. 'Arafat proposed holding quadripartite talks between Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt, and Israel." The report notes that "Shohat reiterated Israel's unequivocal position calling on the donor countries to immediately transfer funds to the Palestinians. Yasir 'Arafat again warned that any failure by the donor countries to transfer these funds could harm not just the autonomy but threaten the entire Middle East peace process." The report adds that " 'Arafat also expressed anger over the donor countries' demand that before the transfer of any funds, he must first establish institutions and orderly budgetary mechanisms."]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 Sep

NC1009091794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 6 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to poltical Islamic issues.

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1. Articles Denounce ICPD
2. Sample of ICPD Reportage
3. Editorial Decries ICPD for Ignoring Iraqi Victims of 'Genocide'
4. Columnists Against ICPD
5. Columnist Criticizes French Policy on Algeria

ARTICLES DENOUNCE ICPD:

The dominant topic of this issue of AL-SHA'B is that of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The issue features approximately 18 reports and commentaries, totaling roughly 18,000 words, disputing the ICPD's aims and questioning its motives, a sample of which is included below.

SAMPLE OF ICPD REPORTAGE:

An 800-word report by Salah Budaywi and Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 7 highlights the moral controversy surrounding the ICPD. Its opening paragraph: "Amid clear opposition from Islamic countries attending the ICPD, calls were made at the opening session yesterday for sexual promiscuity and for women, including teenagers, to have the right to an abortion. The Norwegian prime minister made a brazen attack against religion and morality, calling for the introduction of a link between foreign aid to Third World countries and their family planning programs. U.S. Vice President Al Gore defended abortion, citing a woman's right to terminate pregnancy and the need to reduce the rate of population growth."

EDITORIAL DECRIES ICPD FOR IGNORING IRAQI VICTIMS OF 'GENOCIDE'

Chief Editor Majdi Husayn, in a 1,700-word editorial on pages 1 and 10 entitled "What Is the ICPD's Position on the Extermination of the Iraqi People?," relates Iraqi suffering under UN sanctions. He chastises the ICPD for endorsing health and development programs in the Third World but failing to include the "genocide" of entire nations on its agenda. Husayn writes:

"Advocates of the ICPD claim that the ICPD not only aims to promote birth control in the countries of the South, but seeks to boost development, health, and social welfare. If these 'good intentions' are true, then what is the position of the international forum on the genocide of entire nations living close to the venue of the ICPD? The ICPD and the major powers that stand behind have not placed this crime, which has been going on for five years, on its agenda."

COLUMNISTS AGAINST ICPD:

Ahmad al-Malat, in a 2,000-word column on page 5 entitled "This Suspect Conference, What Do You Want of It?," says: "The dubious conference began its work yesterday on a piece of Egyptian soil voluntarily handed over to the United Nations, an agency that is controlled by the great Satan America and its satellites."

Al-Malat assails those who "advocate prostitution and decadence, call for the freedom of youths of both sexes to

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practice adultery without marriage, seek to spread sodomy, a habit that is dominant and legal in their countries, and request the sanctioning of abortion without any legitimate cause, a practice viewed as a sin in all religions."

Scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali, in a 600-word column on page 12, addresses birth control and the ICPD: "We, believers in the divine word, abhor deception and subterfuge in matters involving virtue and family values. The first thing we ask the ICPD to do is to ban adultery, sodomy, lesbianism, unchaperoned male-female encounters, individual and pair dancing, mixed-sex nudity on or away from beaches, and revealing clothes. Our code for female dress is the same adopted by Christian nuns. Adultery is an abomination denounced by all God-given religions. We will fight, in the name of God, every challenge to these norms."

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES FRENCH POLICY ON ALGERIA:

Columnist Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Shihatah criticizes French policy on Algeria in a 600-word column on page 8 entitled "France and Algeria." France, he says, has waged a security campaign against resident Algerians and called on the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany to prevent Algerians living in these countries from engaging in politics.

'Abd-al-Fattah writes: "It has become unequivocally clear that France has completely taken the side of the military government in Algeria." France is reportedly negotiating "secretly" with the Islamists in Algeria, he notes, but it "has no mandate from the Algerian people" to find a solution to their problems. He concludes: "If France really cares about the Algerian people, its best policy would be to urge the government there to return to democracy and hand over power to those elected by the people."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 6 Sep

NC1109110094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 6 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertan to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. Favorable Reportage, Comment on Population Conference
2. Awqaf Ministry Publishes Anti-Extremism Booklets
3. Culture Official Sees No Clash Between Islam, Secularism
4. Report on the Islamic Center in Washington
5. Writer Fears Partition of Mosque May Strengthen Hamas

FAVORABLE REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON POPULATION CONFERENCE

On pages 1 and 3 of its 6 September issue, 'AQIDATI publishes extensive excerpts from President Husni Mubarak's address to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), under the banner headlines: "Our Population Policy Respects Religious Values," "I Welcome You to Cairo, the City of 1,000 Minarets," and "No Contradiction between Religion and Science."

—In his front-page 350-word column, Samir Rajab, the newspaper's chairman of the board, comments on Mubarak's remark that religion and science are not contradictory. He stresses that God urged Muslims to seek knowledge and pursue learning so that they can live a dignified life. He writes: "Those who claim that religion is against progress and development are undoubtedly a source of harm." Those people, Rajab adds, "have distorted the image of religion and made the world think long and hard before extending bridges of knowledge to the Muslims and providing them with the inventions and technology of the age."

—Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, in his 500-word column on pages 24 and 23, also notes that "one of the prominent false accusations against Islam is that portrays Islam is an adversary of science." He goes on to cite some Koranic verses to support his argument that Islam urges learning, knowledge, science, and the creative use of our minds.

—On page 17, the paper also publishes a 700-word unattributed report on a statement by ICPD Secretary General Dr. Nafis Sadik in which she stresses the ICPD's intention to support ethical and religious values and denies claims that the conference supports abortion and sexual perversion. She says every country will take from the recommendations that which conforms to its own traditions and religious teachings.

—A 150-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 quotes some ulema and preachers affiliated with the Awqaf Ministry as saying that the ICPD provides a chance to show Islam's tolerance and justice and to "nullify the claims of the tendentious ones who, through their falsehoods, seek to harm Egypt and its people." They call on the Egyptian delegation to work hard to block anything that violates the Islamic shari'ah.

—In a 500-word article on page 6, columnist Basyuni al-Hulwani sharply criticizes the Islamic countries that are boycotting the ICPD. He says: "It is regrettable and disgraceful that some Islamic countries took a negative, uncivilized position when they boycotted the conference because of certain topics on its agenda. I believe that those countries made erroneous calculations, shuffled the cards, and consequently made a bad decision." He refers to President Mubarak's assertion that Egypt cannot forsake religious values and that recommendations that violate the Islamic shari'ah are not binding on any Islamic country. The writer charges that boycotting the conference is "an evasion of confrontation at a time when we have a pressing

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need of a rational confrontation with the West and its institutions, which dominate world affairs and tamper with the interests of Muslims here and in the West."

—In a 200-word article on page 23, writer Ibrahim Nasr discusses birth control, arguing that no force on earth can prevent a new birth if God wills it. He takes the view that population growth has nothing to do with poverty and economic problems. "The problem, then, is one of belief and lack of piety all over the world. It is the responsibility of the Islamic ulema to spread faith throughout the world; and this can never be done by adopting negative stands or boycotting international conferences and forums solely because their agendas include topics that the boycotters believe to be contrary to Islam."

—A 500-word column by Majdi Salim on page 10 notes that at a conference on the ICPD sidelines for youths from developed and developing countries there were sharp differences over the issues of abortion, sexual perversion, women, and others. Seeing this conference as a miniature of the ICPD, the writer says: "Our biggest worry is that the developed countries may manage to impose their ideas and recommendations on the developing countries, as their youths did at the miniconference." However, Salim finds in President Mubarak's speech to the ICPD's opening session assurances "that this will not happen."

—'AQIDATI publishes on pages 16 and 17 a 2,000-word undated interview with Dr. Husayn Hamid Hassan, president of the international Islamic University in Pakistan and economic adviser to the president of Kazakhstan, by Basyuni al-Hulwani and Mustafa Yasin in Cairo. Hassan discusses the ICPD, saying it gives Muslims a good chance to present their views and values. He encourages positive, effective participation, where Muslims accept the recommendations that suit them and work to amend the ones that violate their shari'ah. He says the ICPD document does not allow abortion, but actually prevents and fights it.

An 80-word unattributed report on page 2 says the Awqaf Ministry has published 5 million booklets refuting extremist ideas as expressed by extremists during interrogations. The booklets, which will be distributed free to school and university students, explain the facts to the youths "so that they will not fall prey to this false thinking."

CULTURE OFFICIAL SEES NO CLASH BETWEEN ISLAM, SECULARISM

'AQIDATI's page 10 features a 2,000-word interview with Dr. Jabir 'Usfur, president of the Higher Cultural Council, by Ibrahim Nasr and Jamal Salim. 'Usfur sees no grounds for a clash between Islam and secularism. The problem, he says, is that there are two competing groups, each claiming it is right and the other is wrong. If there was tolerance, he maintains, this clash would not occur. 'Usfur rejects encroachment on religion in the name of literary creativity, but says some people try to impose their views on creative writers in the name of religion. He notes that in literature, as in religion, there are extremists, but no one should impose on others in the name of religion. He says real creativity enhances the religious sanctities of the society.

REPORT ON THE ISLAMIC CENTER IN WASHINGTON

An 800-word dispatch from Washington by 'Adil Dayf on page 20 tells us how the Islamic Center in Washington was established and describes the services it provides for Muslims in the United States. It says the center makes immense efforts to bring Muslims closer and offers financial assistance on occasion. It notes that Egypt was a major founder of the center. It says officials of the center always highlight Islam's tolerance and urge Muslims to adhere to the true religion, which does not know fanaticism or hatred.

WRITER FEARS ISRAEL'S PARTITION OF MOSQUE MAY STRENGTHEN HAMAS

An 800-word report by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on page 21 discusses the Israeli "conspiracy" against the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, as represented by Israel's partition of the mosque. The writer urges the Islamic world to confront this Israeli measure, "which is directed not only against the Palestinians, but against all Muslims everywhere and at all times." The writer concludes: "Undoubtedly, if Israel does not back off from its aggression against the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, it will be putting the last nail in the coffin of the fragile peace with the Palestinians, because the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, will then win the battle of credibility over the PLO." The writer adds: "Hamas may then win the elections that will soon be held in the self-rule areas, and this would destroy any hope for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety."

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi on Financial Aid, Dispute With Jordan

NC1009160994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Paris, 10 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Faruq Qaddumi has stated that the donor countries have been slow in giving financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He pointed to the existing problems in Gaza and Jericho.

In an interview with the Paris-based al-Sharq radio station, Qaddumi said that the differences between the World Bank and the donor countries concerning the financial aid reflect negatively on us. We need the money to implement the necessary projects, Qaddumi added. He stressed that the expenses have been increasing daily since the Palestinians assumed some of the internal tasks.

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Responding to a question about the aim of his visit to Paris, the PLO official said that he had come to supervise the talks between the donor countries and the Palestinian delegation and to prioritize the projects. He said there are problems that require money urgently. All promises to give us financial aid have not been fully honored, Qaddumi added.

Answering another question, Qaddumi said that there is no contradiction between the PNA and the PLO. The PLO represents the political and legislative authority and Yasir 'Arafat is the head of the authority. 'Arafat is also the PLO Executive Committee chairman and both authorities are integrated. Qaddumi said that the PLO acts as a central government while the PNA acts as a local government.

Responding to another question about Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the PLO official said: We are anxious to safeguard the fraternal relations with Jordan. I have signed an economic agreement with Jordan. This step should have been followed by contacts to draw up an economic work program, but this program has never been achieved.

Qaddumi said that the tepid relations with Jordan have been triggered by the clause stipulated in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement concerning the religious custodianship over Jerusalem. He expressed the hope that this clause will not cause a dispute with Jordan. Qaddumi pointed out that Jerusalem belongs to all the Arabs and we cannot separate the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in view of their profound ties and united experience.

To a question about the Syrian-Israeli track, Qaddumi said that Syria's stance is sound and is based on the land for peace principle. He said: I greet Damascus for its negotiating vigilance and insistence that the United States be a partner in these negotiations, because we entered the Madrid Peace Conference in October 1991 with the presence of the conference's sponsors—the United States and Russia. Therefore, I demand that Washington participate in all the stages of the negotiations.

Envoy al-Qidrah Urges Israel To Implement Accords

NC1309103694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has reiterated that the Palestinian people are determined to achieve a just peace. He expressed the hope that the peace process will be promoted on all other tracks so that 1995 will be a year of a total, just peace.

In a statement to MENA on the first anniversary marking the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, al-Qidrah said that the Palestinian people are committed to a peace that champions the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination, and to setting up their independent state with its capital Jerusalem.

The Palestinian official urged Israel to implement all the provisions of the agreements that have been agreed upon, noting that failing to do so would cast doubt on Israel's credibility.

Official: Settlements Can Remain Under PNA

TA1309061994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The PLO has agreed to allow all Jewish settlements in the territories to remain under a permanent settlement, on condition that they will be under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA]. This according to the PLO observer at the United Nations, Nasir al-Qidwah. Al-Qidwah was speaking at a public function which was also attended by Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Ya'aqobi.

'Urayqat on Elections, Israeli Policy

JN1209133894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0640 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister of local government" in the PNA and head of the Legislative Elections Committee, by correspondent Ibrahim Milhim on 11 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Milhim] Dr. 'Urayqat, one notices that the European Union [EU] countries, and even the cosponsors of the peace conference, are playing a negative role, if not the role of a bystander, toward Israeli policies. Israeli authorities postpone elections, do not provide census data to the election committee, and paralyze the elections. These countries do not take the measures they should take.

['Urayqat] To be faithful, I have to distinguish between the position of the EU countries and the other countries you mentioned. The EU countries did not just sign a contract. A budget of more than $3 million has been earmarked for this contract. We have EU experts who have been working with us for months. The EU countries constantly contact the Israeli Government. That's why we cannot accuse EU countries of any shortcomings.

Now, let us take the countries that sponsor the peace process, specifically the United States. We addressed them more than once in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace process. We regret to say that they did not do anything.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat asked me, personally, given the fact that I am the head of the committee, to hold a meeting with the members of the [election] committee. We met on 7 September, last Wednesday. I would like to speak very frankly. President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] expressed his dissatisfaction with the delay. We briefed the president and submitted to him a

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copy of the first Palestinian elections law , the first law that governs holding general national elections in Palestine. We reviewed with him where we stand with respect to training. We told him we were on the verge of beginning a comprehensive training program on 26 September to train 4,500 persons in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem so that they can administer 1,500 ballot boxes on election day. From the technical and material point of view, everything is ready. What happened is that Dr. Hasan Abu- Libdah, head of the social census subcommittee, prepared a 75-member team trained to conduct social surveys. This does not mean just collecting data on population centers. It also involves how to divide and determine constituencies and where to distribute voting centers. Abu-Libdah was summoned by the [Israeli] military authorities. They officially banned him from conducting social surveys in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Another obstruction is that we officially asked the Israeli authorities to provide us with population registers during the session of negotiations in Washington in January. However, so far, they have not done so. On 16 August, we met with the Israeli delegation at Erez junction and submitted five comprehensive negotiating papers. We spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in Alexandria the second day, and then during his excellency the president's meeting with Peres on 19 August. They promised to study these papers and to reply and set a date to complete the negotiations. But, up to this moment, not even a date to resume these negotia.ions has been set. [passage omitted]

[Milhim] Dr. 'Urayqat, let us discuss Israeli obstructions. You speak about the Israeli obstructions. These are many, and theyb are not confined to this or that field. Recently, there was the obstruction of Jerusalem. What about the Jerusalem issue? Tell us frankly about what you had agreed about Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] Sir, the agreement signed in Washington was published and is available in the bookshops. On the level of Jerusalem, the agreement says, verbatim, that the Arab inhabitants of East Jerusalem will have the right to participate in the elections. I say this in English: The Palestinians of East Jerusalem will participate in the elections. [preceding sentence in English]. Participation means voting and running for elections. It also means voting centers in Jerusalem. If we search for the reasons why the Israeli Government seeks to postpone or obstruct the elections, I can say that Jerusalem is one of these reasons. Frankly speaking, elections are a key to Jerusalem. They said that the Jerusalem issue is postponed until the final negotiations. However, on the level of elections, the Declaration of Principles stipulated that the East Jerusalem inhabitants will participate and will have the right to participate in the elections. [passage omitted]

[Milhim] Dr. 'Urayqat, the Palestinian opposition forces say the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] does not want to hold elections. They say the PNA says it wants elections, but in reality it does not want them. As a proof of this, they say the PNA has advanced the election date to November, although it knows this is impossible, and that there will be no Israeli army withdrawal and redeployment in the West Bank. Then, the PNA will blame the occupation authorities. How true are these accusations?

['Urayqat] With respect to the brothers in the opposition, I have spoken to some of the brother leaders of all the opposition political factions. On the level of the elections, we told them the door is open. We told them they can participate as full members or as observers. We also said: If you do not want to participate because you fear your rejectionist political stand will be criticized, we are dutybound to brief you on all the measures we take. At the PNA's meeting, a decision was made to have the committee comprise all the factions and movements that are not represented.

As for interpreting what the Palestinian Council of Ministers under brother Abu-'Ammar, is doing as an attempt to say Israel is to blame, well, the truth is that Israel is the one that creates obstacles. We want to hold elections. We have announced we are prepared to hold the elections in November. If Israel places obstructions, let us hold them in December. If Israel also obstructs this, then let us try to hold them before the end of this year. This is what we say....

[Milhim, interrupting] Dr. 'Urayqat, elections cannot be held with good intentions only. There should be signs on the ground. People should see with their own eyes. Registration centers should be opened. There should be a census, and duties for the election committee to carry out. So far, one sees that you have no presence on the ground.

['Urayqat] The question revolves around the tasks we have been asked to carry out. We said the elections system is ready. We said there is a comprehensive plan whose budget has been allocated to train 4,500 Palestinian cadres. We sent 26 of our young men and women to Germany for a five-week training period. They have returned.

Let us go back to the issue of opening centers. Frankly speaking, we were waiting for the negotiations on elections to officially start so the Israeli side would not come and close a center we opened in Janin, Jerusalem, or in Hebron, Ramallah, Nabulus, Tulkarm, or any other place. But, when Israeli procrastination lasted all these months, the decision was made unilaterally to open these bureaus in the occupied Palestinian territories. [passage omitted]

All we say is that our stands should not be judged by what Rabin or Peres say, or what the Israeli radio and press say. To the Israelis, who are skeptical about our intentions, we say: We understand this because you do not want redeployment and do not want to reopen the issue of Jerusalem. But, we cannot understand the skepticism of those within the Palestinian house. [passage omitted]

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'Arafat Meets Israeli Finance Minister Shohat

JN1209173794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat met at his office in Gaza at noon today with Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. President 'Arafat said—at the joint news conference he held with Minister Shohat following the meeting—that the meeting was fruitful, adding that it dealt with various issues, particularly the economic situation and the multilateral talks. President 'Arafat noted the problems facing the peace process and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord, adding that they are part of life [as heard]. The president expressed hope that the peace of the brave will move on quietly, stressing that peace needs sacrifices for the sake of both the Palestinian and Israeli people, as well as for the sake of the coming generations. President 'Arafat expressed hope that peace will also be achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, not only on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks.

Minister Shohat thanked President 'Arafat for receiving him and affirmed both sides' desire to abide by the clauses of the one-year old accord.

This morning, President 'Arafat received a delegation representing world peace movements. Members of the delegation expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian National Authority and their support for the peace process in the region.

The Palestinian-Israeli security committee held a meeting at the Erez checkpoint. The Palestinian side was chaired by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and the Israeli side was chaired by General 'Uzi Dayan. The two sides discussed the release of Palestinian prisoners, Palestinian supervision over the crossing points, the safe passages between Gaza and Jericho, and suspended issues between them. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Christopher's Letter on Peace

JN1209172094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat today received a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The message, which was handed over to the president by the U.S. general consular in Jerusalem, deals with the latest developments in the peace process and ways to remove the obstacles to the convening of the donor states conference in Paris.

'Arafat Addresses Peace Group on 'Difficulties'

JN1209200194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during a meeting with a delegation representing "the world peace group" in Gaza on 12 September—recorded]

[Text] I am pleased with this meeting with my beloved ones in the international peace center—Arabs and Europeans. All of us contribute to making this peace. Tomorrow, 13 September, is a historic day. We are proud of this occasion because it was an expression of the peace of the brave, with all the entailed difficulties. Both sides are facing difficulties and obstacles in the peace process. We are really facing many dangers. However, we are ready to continue to endure these dangers to safeguard peace in the land of peace in Palestine. [applause]

We need your support and help everywhere and on all levels to overcome all these problems. The problems are so many, and Jerusalem is just an example. We agreed that no demographic or geographical change should be made in Jerusalem until a final agreement on Jerusalem is reached. Regrettably, there is a demographic and geographical change in the city of Jerusalem. Regrettably, regrettably, the other side is not committed to this. There are daily changes in the city of Jerusalem. We respect the Jewish holy places in the holy city. The other side, however, must respect the Christian and Islamic holy shrines. The peace of the brave needs these efforts. We must endure the difficulties.

As I said, we are in a serious stage following the end of the Third World cold and hot war [sentence as heard]. Therefore, we need you because we alone cannot make the peace of the brave. I am honored by this meeting with you, which I hope will be the beginning of a continuous work. If there is a will, any problem can be solved, including the most difficult problem, the problem of Jerusalem. However, no party can believe that it can make peace by force. We demand that progress be achieved on all tracks, not only on the Jordanian or Palestinian tracks, but also on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to reach a lasting, strong, and firm peace in the Middle East—the peace of the brave.

As I told you, and I will say now: Everyone is receiving the price of peace, except for the Palestinian side which is paying the price of peace. We are the only ones who are paying the price of peace. The failure of the Paris donor states conference was not a joke. What does this mean? This means that we are paying the price of peace. A whole year has passed and what has been given to the Palestinian people is a little, a little, a little. We are the victims of an occupation that destroyed everything. We are the victims of an occupation that destroyed all of our infrastructure. We have to start from the beginning. This is an international responsibility because the UN resolutions have not been implemented in Palestine. This is an international responsibility. I will [word indistinct] now with the international center for peace.

You are welcome in Gaza First, Gaza First. God willing, we will meet with you in Jerusalem. You are welcome. I am pleased to meet these faces, some of which I have known for long years and some of which I heard about.

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Therefore, I am very pleased with this warm meeting. You are welcome. You are welcome. You are welcome. [applause]

'Arafat Adviser on Opposition Calls for Dialogue

JN1209173494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser has stated the following:

Opposition sources, now and then, make statements about national dialogue. We would like to explain the following: The [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] has said on many occasions that it wants to engage Palestinian opposition forces in a democratic dialogue. In its latest session, the cabinet reviewed such contacts and underlined the need to remain engaged in such an exercise to promote practical results within the framework of national constants advancing our people's interests.

It is obvious that the PNA is keen to see a responsible opposition work for the people. President 'Arafat has made tremendous efforts in the interest of national unity. His excellency has not tired of repeating his slogan: Let us build this homeland together; let us build our Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital; let us build and, in the meantime, engage each other in constructive dialogue; the homeland has need for all of us.

Disagreement Between 'Arafat, Quray' Reported

TA1209134094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources said today that the disagreement between Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the self-rule authority, and Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' have recently intensified to such an extent that it could lead Quray' to resign from the self-rule council. A source close to the council stressed that Quray', who did not attend yesterday's weekly meeting of the authority council, objects to the manner in which economic affairs are being administered. He also objected to including the issue of East Jerusalem in the Palestinian memorandum asking for financial aid from the donor countries. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Denies Plans To Assassinate 'Arafat

JN1309085094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Sep 94 p 39

[Text] Gaza, the self-rule area, QUDS PRESS—The Islamic Jihad Movement, which opposes the peace process, has denied Israeli news media reports that it plans to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The movement said that these reports seek to sow the seeds of sedition and conflict among the sons of the Palestinian people, and to pave the way for internecine fighting among the various political groups.

In a statement, a copy of which was sent to QUDS PRESS, a responsible source in the movement denied an Israeli radio report that the movement had threatened 'Arafat, and that it is planning to resort to violence against the symbols of the Palestinian authority in the self-rule areas. The source described these reports as slander.

The source denied that it has threatened foreign journalists to prevent them from entering the Gaza Strip, and said that the movement's major battle is with the Israeli occupation.

Islamic Jihad Official Calls For Dialogue With PNA

JN0909182794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ziq, an Islamic Jihad Movement leader in the Gaza Strip, yesterday called for initiating a serious dialogue between all Palestinian forces and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], based on the fact that these political forces will not give up their constants and the constants of their sacred cause. Shaykh al-Ziq called for avoiding attempts to forcefully impose one's viewpoint on others to deprive Israel of the opportunity to drag the Palestinian people into internecine fighting.

Shaykh al-Ziq said the Islamic Jihad and all the other opposition political factions are mature enough not to fight one another or clash with the PNA. He said the Islamic Jihad's reply to the recent arrests will be through the use of pressures such as demonstrations, sit-ins, and sideline contacts, in a legal and peaceful manner to prevent the PNA from adopting measures that restrict the work of the opposition forces .

Hamas Spokesman: 'Arafat 'Playing With Fire'

JN1109161194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali Nun in London]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Organization in Palestine, has issued a direct threat to President Yasir 'Arafat and held him personally fully responsible if he does not immediately release the organization's men arrested by the Palestinian police in Gaza. Meanwhile, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], called for curbing 'Arafat. In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH, Ghawshah said he supports jihad, adding that his movement will not agree that the Palestinian president devours the white bull first, then the red bull, and then the black bull. [passage omitted]

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In his statement to AL-HAYAH, Ghawshah said the increasing arrests in Gaza are a very serious phenomenon that reveals the real face of the so-called Palestinian authority that carries out all of Rabin's instructions. The Palestinian people in Gaza, Jericho, and all the occupied territory are getting annoyed and upset. He accused 'Arafat of following a path that will produce negative results, adding that under the game of balances 'Arafat is trying to be open to all by visiting the Islamic University in Gaza, giving a license to a newspaper, or smiling here and frowning there. He said: This trend is negative and will create a crisis.

Ghawshah said: 'Arafat tried to hold dialogue with Hamas through mediators and to obtain a verbal pledge from us to stop jihad operations launched from the self-rule areas. This, however, is not accepted. We insist on continuing jihad operations against occupation, wherever it is.

The Hamas spokesman accused the Palestinian president of playing with fire. He said: Al-Shiqaqi's statement shows bitterness and anger. We share with the Islamic Jihad Organization their ordeal. However, we affirm that we will not allow 'Arafat to devour the white bull first, then the red bull, and then the black bull. All opposition factions should close ranks—in fact all the Palestinian people should stand united—against what 'Arafat is doing. If this fire does not stop immediately and if the wise men—like the members of the Fatah Central Committee, that is, if there are still any—do not intervene to stop him, things will become very negative. [passage omitted]

Says Armed Struggle To Continue

NC0909112594 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 30 Aug 94 p 17

[Interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Organization in Palestine, by Layla al-Dahuk; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Dahuk] According to the Oslo Agreement, you are depicted as terrorists. The Palestinian police are pursuing you and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. How will you deal with the pursuit if it continues?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First, we emphasize to the world and to the Palestinian police the truth, which they know, namely that we are the victims of terrorism, not terrorists. We are defending the minimum of the usurped rights inside Palestine. We are determined to practice our armed jihad wherever there is an Israeli soldier in Palestine. Nomenclatures and threats, no matter from what source, do not scare us. We are trying our best not to clash with any Palestinian side, be it the police or others. This is our priority. But continuing to fight the Zionist enemy remains our sacred duty; we will not abandon it under any circumstances.

[Al-Dahuk] 'Arafat has exploited your desire to avoid inter-Palestinian fighting and continues to intensify his repressive measures against your elements and intifadah elements as a whole. How will you face 'Arafat if he continues to escalate things? Will you resort to a military confrontation or will you continue to uphold the slogan of no inter-Palestinian fighting?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We will uphold the slogan of no inter-Palestinian fighting. We know how to confront such repression. There is one way that we believe is successful. The more repression there is the greater our resistance to the Zionist occupation. As for the Palestinian police, we will not confront them under any circumstances and we will try to prove to the world and our people that there is a failed and bankrupt authority that can neither liberate the land nor provide security and prosperity for the Palestinians but is at the same time detaining and suppressing the nation's vanguards of struggle and jihad. I believe that this will make the Palestinian Authority's situation more difficult, especially when its repression will lead to more fighting against the Zionist enemy, which in turn will aggravate this authority's difficulties.

[Al-Dahuk] Despite the presence of the Palestinian police, Israel continues to tamper with the citizen's security. We learned recently that the Israeli secret service arrested an Islamic Jihad leader in his house in Gaza and handed him over at the Israeli checkpoint. In view of the security logistics cooperation between 'Arafat and the Zionists, are such practices expected to increase? What are your plans to face them?

[Al-Shiqaqi] The kidnapping and detention of an Islamic Jihad leader by the occupation forces was expected. We saw the Israelis before their so-called withdrawal from the Gaza Strip training to carry out such operations and staging trial runs for that purpose. Their action therefore was not ruled out and our brothers there are cautious. They are not lax and do not sleep in silk-covered beds but are always expecting such operations. Coordination between the Zionist enemy and the Palestinian Authority was expected and was not ruled out. There are, undoubtedly, security agreements between the two sides. The Palestinian side, which is the weaker, is compelled to abide by these agreements. As for our answer to these acts, it is summed up in our highlighting our steadfastness, determination, and our unity as opposition forces. Our answer is to strengthen and revolutionize the intifadah and continue with the armed jihad and action. We are not entering a new phase of pressure; we have lived under pressure for years. Such kidnappings and detentions are not new to us. What is probably new is the possible cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and the Zionist occupation. We can overcome this through the secrecy of our movements and actions. We will not relax just because we are facing the Palestinian police only. We know that the occupation soldiers will not be absent from the Gaza Strip and are ready to reach any point within minutes. [passage omitted]

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[Al-Dahuk] What will your position be if elections for national authority and civilian institutions are held in the occupied territories?

[Al-Shiqaqi] As far as elections are concerned, we do not recognize the self-rule agreements and we will not, therefore, contest any elections that acknowledge, support, or embody those agreements. We will not participate in any elections that have political significance suggesting, directly or indirectly, that we deal with the self-rule agreements.

We support the building of Palestinian civilian and social institutions. We will participate in any elections for students and trade unions and even in municipal elections that have direct links with the interests of the public, not with the occupation authorities—institutions that are not tools in the hand of occupation. We will not object to elections to build society if we find this to be in the interest of the people. We reject self-rule elections and elections to establish a self-rule authority because such an authority will be an instrument in the hand of occupation and we refuse to be such an instrument. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dahuk] What is your position on the Jordanian-Palestinian dispute over Jerusalem?

[Al-Shiqaqi] I believe this dispute is disgraceful and, at the same time, misleading. The real dispute should be over sovereignty. The Palestinians agreed to delay discussion of sovereignty over Jerusalem amid Israeli determination that sovereignty over the city is decided, it is for Israel. The [Jordanian] king implicitly acknowledged this Israeli sovereignty. They are talking about the al-Aqsa mosque. We know that the Jews do not pray in the mosque and have no direct control over the Salah al-Din pulpit in the mosque or over the mosque's inner shrine. This mosque has been under Jordanian administration since the Zionist occupation of Jerusalem. But administration is one thing and sovereignty is something else. A mosque's imam is not the one who has sovereignty over the mosque. Regrettably, what everybody should acknowledge is that the Zionists control Jerusalem, including the mosque. The mosque needs to be under Islamic administration and the king was given this symbolic reward to deceive his people and others into believing that Jerusalem is under his control. We do not want to enter into this hollow clamor and take sides. If there was a party fighting for sovereignty over Jerusalem, we would take its side, but the current game is far from being one over sovereignty; it concerns a symbolic status to mislead people, nothing more. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dahuk] Does Iran, which is under Western pressure, still support your movement financially and morally?

[Al-Shiqaqi] I believe the Islamic revolution in Iran will lose much of its significance if it stops supporting the causes of the oppressed everywhere, especially in Palestine. I do not expect the Islamic revolution to stop backing the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

Opposition Criticizes 'Separate Deals'

JN1209201294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Sep 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Political statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] on the first anniversary of the ill-omened Oslo agreement: The first anniversary of the Oslo Agreement falls on 13 September 1994. This agreement has endorsed the Zionist usurpation of Palestine and paved the way for the liquidation of the Palestine question and Palestinian rights, thus allowing the Zionist entity to cross into the Arab region to establish a Zionist-dominated Middle Eastern order which would turn the Zionist entity into a big power and force the Arabs to give up their pan-Arab aspirations for liberation and unity. Moreover, such an order would obliterate the Arab national identity and history and leave the Arabs and their resources to be plundered by the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

O masses of our great people, the Oslo-Cairo agreement constitutes a grave disaster for the cause of our people and nation. What we warned against a year ago is now being implemented on the ground. Since it has been charged by the occupation authorities with suppressing the intifadah, the 'Arafat police has been adopting repressive measures against our people, including raiding and searching homes, chasing strugglers, and detaining scores of strugglers. The latest detention campaign targeted scores of the strugglers of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movements and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. That detention campaign, which coincided with the escalation of jihad and military operations against the occupation forces and the herds of settlers, proves that Gaza and Jericho are still under occupation and that the Zionists are still in control of decisionmaking, exactly as is the case throughout the occupied homeland. Consequently, the independence about which the supporters of self-rule are boasting is nothing but an illusion, and their fictional authority is nothing but a tool to implement the enemy's will.

The APF statement adds: O masses of our Arab people and Islamic nation: The Oslo-Cairo agreement has brought our people nothing but further poverty and want, and nothing but repression and terrorism. The occupation and 'Arafat prisons are packed with detainees. This agreement has ignored Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine and ignored our people's right to return home. It has legalized the settlements and their expansion. Therefore, it does not express our people's will and national aspirations for liberation, return, and full national independence. Meanwhile, 'Arafat and his

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team continue to implement the Zionist dictates and terms. In this context, continuing his policy of deceiving our people and serving the objectives of the occupation, 'Arafat signed a new agreement on the so-called transfer of civilian authorities to the limited self-rule administration in the Palestinian West Bank. This agreement is nothing but a revival of the plan on sharing responsibilities, as provided by the Zionist Labor Party's program of 1967.

The APF statement added: The Jordanian-Zionist agreement and normalization with the enemy are a new link in the chain of partial and separate deals that imperialism and Zionism seek to impose on our Arab masses at the expense of their rights and the future generations. The Moroccan king's normalization with the enemy by opening liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat ushers in full official normalization and encourages other Arab parties to take the route of capitulation.

Our Palestinian people, who triggered the greatest uprising in history, are not about to buckle before a new tyrant, and have what it takes to soldier on in their militant march against the forces of occupation, settlers, and their agents. The rise of our valiant workers at the Erez checkpoint and the bloody confronations in the valiant city of Hebron and the other daily clashes with the troops of occupation and settlers throughout the occupied land furnish hard evidence of a continuing and renewing intifadah and a deepening crisis for the Oslo-Cairo accord.

The APF statement added: Our great masses: The APF reiterates its unmitigated rejection of the Oslo-Cairo accord and renews the pledge to pursue the struggle to topple the accord and its sponsors. It further urges all the faithful forces of our Arab and Islamic community, as well as all the freedom lovers in the world, to champion and back the jihad and struggle of our people to upgrade and intensify the intifadah and enable our people to carry on their struggle on behlaf of their national goals—liberation, repatriation, and full national independence.

The APF rejects the order issued to 'Arafat to convene a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Gaza under the lances of occupation to revoke clauses in our national charter that have won unanimous support among our people. It calls for holding elections for a new PNC in which our people, both within and outside of Palestine, are represented—a council that would then choose a leadership that can uphold our people's interests and cause.

The APF also rejects the appointment policy 'Arafat has pursued in the town councils and calls for free municipal elections reflective of popular legitimacy. It condemns the factional policies of 'Arafat and the Zionist enemy in dealing with the causes of the detainees and deportees, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all the detainees and the return of all the deportees without any discrimination.

[signed] The APF

Radio Reports Opposition Forces Gaza Statement

JN1209141794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian opposition forces issued statement at the end of a news conference held in Gaza today in which they denounced the recent arrests of a number of the Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine following operations targeting Israelis in areas under the control of the [Palestinian] National Authority in Gaza last week.

The statement was signed by the Islamic Jihad Movement [in Palestine]; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, one of the Islamic Jihad leaders in Gaza, called for constructive dialogue with the National Authority to safeguard the unity of the Palestinian people.

'Abbas Denies Plans To Resign From PNC

TA1209201994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], one of the architects of the Oslo agreement, said that this agreement and the process it initiated were a dream come true. In his opinion, the agreement signed between the PLO and Israel led other countries, such as Lebanon and Syria, to enter a similar process.

At a meeting with notables in al-Tayyibah, Abu-Mazin denied rumors that he plans to resign from the Palestine National Council [PNC] and asserted that he will continue his activity within the PLO in order to promote the peace process. Tomorrow, Abu-Mazin is scheduled to visit his birthplace, the city of Zefat.

Security Services Structure Reviewed

TA0909141294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (7 YAMIM supplement) in Hebrew 9 Sep 94 pp 5, 6, 8

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The official title of the Palestinian Security Service [PSS] is preventive security. Its task is to protect the autonomy rule and prevent espionage activities, terrorism, and subversion against 'Arafat's rule. It was established on the eve of the Palestinian troops' arrival in the territories, and 'Arafat personally appointed its chiefs: Jibril al-Rujub in Jericho, who was given the rank of colonel for that purpose, and Muhammad Dahlan in Gaza. Both had been deported from the territories at the beginning of the intifadah, which they proceeded to manage from Tunis. Al-Rujub, who was dubbed "the intifadah dynamo,"

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directed the popular uprising in the West Bank, while Dahlan handled the Gaza Strip operations.

In practical terms, the PSS is an intelligence body which serves Fatah and is expected to buttress 'Arafat's rule. Most of its personnel are Fatah members, and a few are from FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation], 'Arafat ally Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's party.

Unlike in Israel, the PSS offices are publicly visible, with eye-catching signs over the doors announcing: Preventive Security. The names of PSS heads were made public, and they routinely give interviews to the media. Al-Rujub usually wears a uniform.

The PSS Jericho headquarters are located opposite the al-Aqsa military base—formerly, Israel's Hanan base—in a building formerly used by the Israeli public works department. The building is surrounded by a fence covered thick dense green plastic sacking that prevents passersby from looking into the yard. The entry boasts a large black iron gate. Three or four guards in civil garb, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, usually sit outside the gate.

The office in charge of Jericho is located on the second floor of a small house opposite the new mosque in the outskirts of Jericho. Before the evacuation, the house had been used by the PLO's Jericho District offices.

Al-Rujub is supposed to operate the PSS only in the autonomous area of Jericho. In practice, he operates throughout the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. His men follow collaborators, check on 'Arafat's opposition, settle local quarrels, combat crime, and even find stolen cars.

Dahlan and al-Rujub have succeeded in employing the Fatah's organizational infrastructure for the benefit of the PSS. A preventive security branch was installed in every Fatah office in the territories. Their agents are busy collecting information, which is then sent on to the Jericho headquarters.

The Jericho headquarters house representatives from every territories district, and the representatives act as local commanders of a sort. Two squads were set up in each district: one for data collecting and another for suspect interrogation.

Israel knew even before it evacuated the area that war on terror in the territories requires the cooperation of the PSS. Over six months ago, the Shin Bet head and Major General Amnon Shahaq met with al-Rujub and Dahlan in Geneva to sign a cooperation agreement, whose main objective was a joint struggle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In preliminary meetings with PSS representatives, it was agreed that Dahlan and al-Rujub would act to disarm the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads, curb the organization leaders' freedom of action, and thwart their terrorist operations.

In practice, almost none of these objectives has been met. Hamas has not been disarmed; its activists were summoned to the PSS offices for questioning only and not for interrogation. In practice, Hamas and the other fundamentalist Islamic organizations are conducting overt activities unhampered.

The PSS' main remaining enemy is the collaborators. Over 300 suspects have been interrogated in Gaza and Jericho so far, and some of them tell stories of torture. To avoid annoying Israel, the Palestinians always release the suspects at the end of the interrogation. The agreement prohibits the Palestinians from punishing collaborators, and the Palestinians have been careful not to stretch the rope too far after they were warned that if they harm collaborators, Israel will not negotiate the release of Palestinian prisoners. Israeli security elements believe that many collaborators began cooperating with the PSS after going through its interrogation rooms. [passage omitted]

As a rule, the public in the territories is indifferent to the tales of torture at the hands of the PSS and Palestinian police, and it is especially so when the victims are the widely loathed collaborators. Attempts by Palestinian human right organizations to take action received no public support or backing.

Bassam 'Ayd, a Betzelem researcher, naively believed the organization would pursue its struggle to promote human rights in the territories after the establishment of autonomy. He was disappointed. "The Betzelem directors decided not to preoccupy themselves with domestic Palestinian affairs, and although I disagree with their decision, I have no influence there. They are motivated by political and not by humane considerations; they are public figures. I have heard many horror stories since the autonomy, both from people who were tortured and locals who found out about torture. I condemn this, just as I condemned torture by Israelis." [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Dembri on Tensions With Neighbor States

MM1209154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] What does Algeria want from the population conference? Do you have specific demands?

[Dembri] We support the issues proposed by the population conference, especially development, environment, education, and health issues. We have nothing to do with the other issues. We refused to boycott the conference to stress cooperation in the issues I mentioned.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the cause of the tension in Moroccan-Algerian relations?

[Dembri] We do not know the Moroccan intention in that connection. We sent a memorandum to Moroccan officials, asking several question in order to reach a result, but no reply has yet been received.

[Abu-Husayn] What questions did you address to Moroccan officials?

[Dembri] The first was about the imposition of visas on Algerians, even on foreigners of Algerian origin. We expressed our indignation at this measure, especially as there are numerous agreements under which citizens in every country move freely. We also asked the brothers in Morocco about the effect of the tension happening in our country as a result of the Salvation Front's violence, but the answer was not clear.

[Abu-Husayn] Did the tension in Moroccan-Algerian relations happen suddenly, or were there preludes to this dispute?

[Dembri] Regrettably, it happened suddenly, because Moroccan-Algerian relations had been very cordial.

[Abu-Husayn] Why did Algeria respond by closing the land border?

[Dembri] We have taken this measure as a temporary decision until the vision is clear and until we know the reasons that prompted Morocco to impose a visa between us and them. Especially as Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] agreements rejects this completely, as we laid preliminary foundations toward economic integrations with a view to achieving full political union among UMA states.

[Abu-Husayn] Will Algeria under the current tension in relations participate in the international economic conference scheduled to be held in Morocco?

[Dembri] We will not link what is happening between us and them to the question of participation in the international economic conference. At any rate, Algeria has received the invitation to participate in it, but we have not decided yet. Nevertheless, we have economic plans which we can present at the summit. But some other Arab Maghreb countries have not yet received an invitation—an indication that they have been excluded by an international decision.

[Abu-Husayn] Such as which?

[Dembri] I believe that Libya has not received an invitation.

[Abu-Husayn] Has Algeria taken new measures to protect foreign communities, especially after recent attacks?

[Dembri] We are a state enjoying full sovereignty, and we will not give any state the opportunity to interfere in our affairs. We have taken numerous protective measures for the sake of foreign communities. However, we must stress that terrorism is a violence phenomenon not aimed against a particular community in Algeria. Maybe the terror is aimed against one particular citizen.

[Abu-Husayn] What are the results of the current dialogue between the government and the Salvation Front?

[Dembri] The dialogue is proceeding, but slowly. The government is not responsible for that. In every state we issue a full statement regarding the results. Especially as President Liamine Zeroual has a clear approach vis-a-vis the importance of the continuation of the dialogue with the Salvation Front and good intentions in this connection. We hope to reach practical solutions soon, leading eventually to national consensus.

[Abu-Husayn] President Zeroual met with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir. Did they discuss the cooperation uncovered by French authorities between the Salvation Front in Algeria and Hasan al-Turabi's Front in Sudan?

[Dembri] The Sudanese president completely denied that matter and began to talk with Zeroual about the launch of a new cordial relationship between Algeria and Sudan.

[Abu-Husayn] After that meeting, do you accuse al-Turabi's front of exporting terrorism?

[Dembri] No comment.

[Abu-Husayn] Has the Algerian president's visit to Libya produced any results as regards eliminating the differences between you and them?

[Dembri] Yes. It has been agreed to form a new committee to demarcate the border between the two countries. It will convene next month to work to develop border areas between us and Libya.

Credit, Currency Council Creates New Bank

LD1109192894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The credit and currency council yesterday agreed to set up a financial enterprise with private capital. The

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bank is named the Union Bank. This was announced 11 September by the Bank of Algeria. The capital of this bank, whose main shareholder is Brahim Hajas, is 100 million dinar.

'Positive Results' Noted in Oil Prospecting Program

LD1109201594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] SONATRACH and the Canadian oil group, PETRO-CANADA, announced that they had achieved positive results in regard to a prospecting program in (Tinhirt) area, southeast Hassi Messaoud.

A press statement issued by SONATRACH said that these results involve considerable quantities of oil and gas.

HAMAS Leader Opposes Armed Groups in Dialogue

LD1209230394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] leader Cheikh Mahfouz Nahnah today rejected the idea of allowing armed groups to take part in the dialogue. He said that his movement was strongly convinced that the latest demand of the outlawed party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS] regarding those who are carrying arms taking part in the dialogue was an unattainable demand that is not legitimate.

In a statement he made this evening to the Algerian news agency APS, Nahnah said in response to a question on his movement's stance regarding the contents of the latest letter signed by five of the dissolved FIS in Blida's military prison that their demand that armed groups be included in the dialogue should not be legitimized. He said that he did not wish that the demand become legitimate because the use of weapons has created so many bitter memories that their acceptance by the state might lead the injured parties to seek revenge by destabilizing the state's authority at home and its prestige abroad.

Ennahda Conference Reelects Djaballah

LD1009001494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The work of the third and last day of the constituent conference of the Islamic Ennahda Movement held in the Palais des Nations in Les Pins Maritimes was devoted to the adoption of the general political motion and the elections of the national consultative council and the chairman of the movement. Here is a report by Zine El Abidine Bouacha:

[Begin recording] [Bouacha] As expected Mr. Abdallah Djaballah was reelected as head of the Islamic Ennahda Movement with 92 percent of the votes of conferees estimated at 1,400 participants. [passage omitted] Djaballah's reelection will enable him to continue the dialogue with the blessing of the party grassroots. He spoke optimistically about the dialogue, saying that the future will be better than the present. The move towards a detente may be slow, he said, but arriving at results is inevitable. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ettahadi Leader Rejects Fundamentalist Aims

LD1009125794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2014 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Interview with Hashemi Cherif, secretary-general of the Algerian Ettahadi Movement, by Nasreddine Allaoui; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Allaoui] Ladies and gentlemen, Algerians in the homeland and abroad, our viewers in all Arab countries, peace be upon you and welcome to the Algerian TV channel. Within the context of our series of programs, including meetings with political parties, we meet today Mr. Hashemi Cherif, secretary-general of the Ettahadi Movement, one of the parties that have so far abstained from attending the dialogue which was called for by Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the head of state. As you know, the dialogue has so far been held in two phases, the first of which started on 25 August, and the second on 5 September, and is to be resumed in further phases from 20 September. During all these phases, the Ettahadi Movement abstained from attending the dialogue because it is not convinced it is the means to solve Algeria's political crisis, which it views as a deep one. The movement sees that the first point that should be discussed, before embarking on a dialogue, is to identify the projects of society that are to be achieved in Algeria. The movement's view is that the dialogue in its current form would directly lead to achieving the Islamic project which would, according to Ettahadi Movement, deviate from the goal of achieving the true democracy based on the respect of pluralism of thought and opinion.

Mr. Cherif, welcome to this program. In the beginning both we and our viewers would like to know the reasons behind Ettahadi Movement's abstention so far from entering the dialogue?

[Cherif] Thanks for this invitation. First, I would like to say that the reasons behind our abstention are almost the same reasons which led me to hesitate before accepting the invitation to be on this program. Why? There are two reasons. The first is: We ask the question, is it indeed possible to hold a real and true intellectual dialogue with all the freedom of thought and freedom of expression it should involve away from any pressure? So in fact, even with the opening of radio and TV channels in this way, although we consider it as a positive thing, we should be realistic and admit that under this brutal terrorism, anyone who talks to the public on TV in the confidence that there are guns and knives upholding their views would, of course, be reassured. But those who face the viewers using the language of frankness and try to

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analyze, as best as they can, the truth of the crisis, its proportions, and its nature, for these people, who confront the murderous enemy threatening our nation today and our country in crisis, the situation is totally different.

The second point is the fact that we consider the participants in the current dialogue—even if the Ettahadi Movement, the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] and all the parties present in the arena take part ... [pauses] This dialogue will not truly reflect what is currently happening on the ground, or rather has not truly reflected that. Why is that? Because in our analysis of the current political class or the components dominating the present political class, we discover that the political class is unfortunately going in one direction and society in another. What does Algerian society want? What are the requirements of the period which will enable the Algerian people to achieve their ambitions in all fields? Naturally, this includes the establishment of a modern, democratic, and republican state in the real sense of the word.

However, what we are noticing on the ground is that most of the political class—we are not saying all of it—is taking another path. Objectively, the political class today is running counter to the march of the Algerian society towards a better situation.

In reply to your question on the dialogue, I will repeat what I said directly to His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual and what I said to the two advisers of the State Presidency about 10 days ago: We must go back to the crisis and we must analyze the crisis. What is Algeria's current crisis? We believe that the crisis is that of a program of society. When we say that we are not inventing, making up, or fabricating anything. The paradox between the two programs exists on the ground, and this is reflected everywhere. Therefore, whether we like or not, the core of the crisis is the struggle between two programs of society.

Let us be clear now. We did not ask for a new program of society. The force which is asking for a new program of society, which is totally incompatible with the program of 1 November [1954], is the fundamentalist movement. As far as we are concerned, what we are asking for is the completion of the November Revolution, in its inner core, in other words, to achieve what could not be achieved so far and to overcome the contradictions generated by the contemporary nationalist movement. These contradictions became more acute and more pronounced until they exploded in the early 1980s. These contradictions are all the gains achieved by the Algerian people in all fields [as heard] and everything achieved in the international arena because Algeria, in its daily life and its existence, is linked, whether we like or not, to the pace and direction in which all of humanity is moving. Therefore, what is being currently achieved by human societies, the developed ones naturally, forces Algeria to make great strides forward towards the establishment of a democratic and modern state.

Thus, this is what is dictated by reality. Unfortunately, this reality has not been recognized by the entire political class, although this reality expresses itself every day through the assassinations, the torture, the beatings, the beheadings, and the burning down of educational establishments. I read today the final figure mentioned by the education minister and it is 550 educational establishments, in addition to a number of university establishments and industrial enterprises and so on. This is the bitter reality. The democrats are not responsible for this reality.

[Allaoui] Naturally. However, Mr. Cherif, in order to avoid sticking only to remote or academic analyses, I would like to know, and the Algerian people would also like to know, the other reasons, in addition to the program of society, which led the Ettahadi Movement to refrain from entering the dialogue?

[Cherif] This is not the first time that the Ettahadi Movement has abstained from entering the dialogue. The Ettahadi Movement has been abstaining since September 1993, sorry 1992, at the time of the Higher State Council. Why did we abstain then, and why are we still abstaining from taking part in such a dialogue, such an effort, and not in the dialogue, in the noble sense of the dialogue? We are convinced that the crisis is that of a program of society and that this crisis was not caused, and I repeat, or provoked by the democratic forces but was caused by the forces which are affiliated to the fundamentalist movement and which want to abort [preceding word in French] the November [1954] program. So we start with this fact and we start with the fact that the fundamentalist movement—which is proving it every day with killings, destruction and arson—will not make compromises over the program of an Islamic state. This is not new; it has been the slogan of the fundamentalist movement since 1990 or even prior to that. I said 1990 because that is the year when the movement became widespread and started adopting the following slogan: "No charter and no constitution." This was and still is the slogan of all the forces affiliated with the fundamentalist movement. There is also the slogan "We live and die for it [the Islamic state]." This is what finally shed light on the relation of the fundamentalist movement with aspects of political action. The slogan "We live and die for it" means that if we do not obtain an Islamic state through elections, we will definitely obtain it through political violence and through terrorism. Therefore the question which can be put to the political class, and not just to the Ettahadi Movement, is as follows: Is there a compromise solution between the program of a democratic state and that of a Islamic state? We say no. Is there a compromise even in the chapters of the program of society, for example with regard to the shape or shapes of the state, with regard to citizenship, with regard to the use of religion for political purposes, with regard to the contents of the educational and cultural sectors in general, with regard to equality among the citizens, or with regard to equality between men and women?

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Every day the reality proves beyond any doubt the impossibility of a compromise between the two projects or programs of society. So if there were to be a dialogue, its goal should be, as any other dialogue, to bring the points of view closer. The reality proves that the fundamentalist movement has not and will never make a step forward towards recognizing, in practice and once and for all, a modern, democratic, and republican constitution. This is the truth. We therefore say that the reasons which led to the failure of the dialogue which existed since September 1992 until the convening of national dialogue conference are still there. I would add, if you don't mind, that we are not dogmatic [preceding word in French] and we have not said that our point of view is absolutely right and valid in all cases, we are prepared for dialogue.

[Allaoui] Excuse me, Mr. Cherif, I want to say that you are now discussing the content of the dialogue, that the dialogue is now in order to solve a given crisis—that is to say, the way to return to the electoral process. The problem of devising a project or program of society could be raised after that. This is one point. The other is: Don't you think that it is the people's right to decide which program they want? A democratic program? An Islamic one? Or a sort of compromise between the two?.

[Cherif] This a point of view. This the Presidency's point of view, the same point of view that prevailed in the former Higher State Council. I have said that we have not invented a compromise program, and whether we like or not, there has never been historically or realistically possible that the project or program of a society could be decided through elections and universal suffrage. Why? We should first ask, what is universal suffrage? It is a method of democratic management in a modern, democratic, and republican state. Therefore it is impossible to haggle over one of the means of democratic expression and use it to abort democracy definitively.

The existing problem is that the democratic republic is a political system designed to make people feel they are citizens [preceding words in French], with all the basic and public liberties, while the Islamic project is the opposite to the democratic project. The Islamic project as any other project is doomed. When it will control a society, it will finally put an end to the basic liberties; it will finally put an end to the democratic liberties. [passage omitted]. We therefore do not accept the idea that it is possible that the Islamic project can be imposed on the society in any way whatever, even by way of election because it is an imposition. [passage omitted].

[Allaoui] Yesterday the contents of two messages sent by Mr. Abbasi Madani were revealed. They clearly showed respect for the principles which were determined for participation in the dialogue. How do you read the two messages?

[Cherif] No, I do not care about a message from Abbasi Madani as an individual. The fundamentalist movement is an indivisible whole. Abbasi Madani may cut himself away from the unanimity within the fundamentalist movement, but the latter remains with its radical extremist tendencies. It will never abandon what is the cause of its existence [sentence repeated in French]. Dialogue should mirror the reality. On 21 August, when the five parties met with the head of state, several institutions were set on fire. Is it logical that a meeting at that level should end without condemning those criminal acts? This is the reality.

[Allaoui] The problem, Mr.Cherif, is not...

[Cherif, interrupting] The Islamists did not condemn violence as a political means.

[Allaoui] Following the analysis you made so far, the door has been shut—no dialogue. Can the security solution solve the current crisis in Algeria?

[Cherif] Who spoke about the security solution? We have never spoken about the security solution.

[Allaoui] What is left, then?

[Cherif] I do not know what is the source of the security solution. We have always spoken about the necessity of the political solution. The security aspect will be part of a wide political solution. What will the political solution be? Let us here go back to the beginning of our conversation. What does the Algerian society want? Why did the society go out on the street since the beginning of the 1980s?

[Allaoui] But no one in Algeria knows precisely what the Algerian society wants. There are no statistics, no elections, no referendums so far. There are some who support the Islamic project, while some others support the democ atic project. What separates them from each other is a democratic means which can be a referendum, for example?

[Cherif] [passage omitted]. Dialogue means that I now can find a compromise with regard to the Islamic project. Reality proves that that is impossible. Reality shows that those who shoulder what is termed as the Islamic society or state are now opposing the regime. The assassinations have not been directed against the state officials, but ordinary citizens in all factions of the society. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] So as you see it the solution is to impose a project for society which comes from above to below, namely an elitist project, although all the projects for society which came from the elite, for example, have failed? The difference between November [1954] and now is that in the 1950s many projects for society were imposed in a number of states but in the 1960s their failure was clear. We can recall, for example, the states of Eastern Europe. We can recall, for example, Algeria, which up till now has no clear social project which comes to mind.

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[Cherif] No. We are talking neither within the same field nor within the same historical context. The experiences of Eastern or Western Europe or others were, or are, all based on a modern state. They are choices within a modern state.

In our case, the choice before us is not between two alternatives within a contemporary state and society which allows for democracy, citizenship, and alternation of power, but between the establishment of a modern, democratic, republican state in all meanings of the word, and a religious theocratic state which, if it takes power, will close the doors forever to any republican rule, any individual liberties, any basic liberties. The reality of today is making this clear.

What does it mean today when the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] issues a statement saying that schools and universities must not open this year. Then they change their tactics and say all right, let the doors be opened but on the following conditions, which some people describe as crippling. What are these conditions? No coeducation. Making girls wear Islamic dress. Forbidding the study of music and arts, and so on. I think there is a fourth condition. Forbidding girls from participating in sports. This is the reality today. [passage omitted]

What right does anyone have to make the Algerian people choose between their absolute and eternal liberties and this force which wants to gain control over them by force and by using political discourse, sorry, I mean religious discourse.

[Allaoui] But Mr. Cherif, what will the solution be? Will it be no dialogue with those people? [passage omitted].

[Cherif] Why is this question being asked? Why was it not asked of the fundamentalist movement? It is the fundamentalist movement that is carrying arms against the state and the people and the homeland, and not us. We are innocent. We are struggling through the use of political and ideological speeches only. We have never carried out arms and have never brought any pressure—of any sort at all—to bear on the society. Therefore the question should be asked of those who carried arms against the state, the society, and the people. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] The two movements which are concentrating on demanding calming measures are HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] and Ennahda. Until now there are no proofs of the two movements' involvement in any terrorist operation. The only movement involved is the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. Its leadership is in prison. There are secret military commands of the FIS. What can be done—I mean the other political faction, other than the FIS—what can it do to find a solution for the very dangerous situation in Algeria?

[Cherif] We regard the situation as dangerous; we have been for years stressing the danger of a clash, but our views were not heeded. We said in 1990 that if we did not avoid the development of events it was inevitable that a clash would occur. When did the clash commence? It began when the fundamentalist movement was given the possibility of functioning as a party at the expense of the 1989 constitution. That means that the movement is unconstitutional. [passage omitted]. The events since 1991-92 that have taken place in the country now the fundamentalist movement is politically isolated in the society.

[Allaoui] If this is so why has it therefore...

[Cherif, interrupting] Allow me. We, as the Ettahadi Movement, we cannot at all accept this gamble with the fate of the Algerian people, to go back to what I have said before. [sentence repeated in French]. The anti-democratic forces should not permitted to seize power, either partially or wholly, to put an end to democracy.

How did the fundamentalist movement in Iran come to power? By attempting to weld itself with the democratic aspirations of the Iranian masses. When it assumed power, it finally put an end to democracy, and liquidated anyone who struck an alliance with it even from among the moderate Islamists. This was in order to seize power fully. What is the fate of Iran now? There are more than one million people who were assassinated; more than five million people are living as Iranian expatriates. [sentence repeated in French]. We can also take Sudan as an example. Sudan entered the fundamentalist movement into parliament with ten percent of the vote. With ten percent of the vote, the movement managed to infiltrate all the apparatuses of the regime and carry out a military coup within a few months. We can cite Jordan as an example whose monarchical regime managed to take on board the fundamentalist movement within a democratic project; they entered the election, but that did not prevent them from carrying arms. Therefore let us go back to the fundamentalist movement here in Algeria. We consider the fundamentalist movement an indivisible whole; all its detachments are linked by the Islamic state project. The moderate statement—within quotation marks—by this or that leader of this or that detachment is nothing but a tactic in order to preserve the legitimacy of the Islamist view at the political level. But in actual fact—and we have said this since February or March in the message we sent to His Excellency President Zeroual—what is the contribution of Hamas or Ennahda or even [word indistinct] in this dialogue? To demand the rehabilitation of the dissolved FIS only. That is the only point which these parties are demanding. This expresses the reality which I have previously mentioned. It is a unified movement; Hamas or Ennahda do not in actual fact exist without the existence of the dissolved FIS. People talk about the rehabilitation of the dissolved FIS. They should go further.

Rehabilitation means that the dissolved FIS has suffered an injustice at some particular stage. The person who puts forward this proposition should bear the responsibility for it and remind and direct society by telling it

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that here and on this point we—the dissolved FIS—have suffered an injustice and therefore it should be rehabilitated. Let everyone bear his responsibility, which means that we should pose a question to those who put forward this proposition. Where is the injustice? Is it in the halting of the suicidal electoral process? Or is it in giving legitimacy to parties which are founded on a religious basis which is against the revolution and the history of Algerian society?

We consider that the injustice lay in beginning to give legitimacy to the fundamentalist movement at the expense of the 1989 constitution.

[Allaoui] But [passage indistinct]

[Cherif] Yes.

[Allaoui] Considering every analysis that you have made up until now, I, and perhaps the viewers also, have not understood what alternative there is to the dialogue and what alternative there is, for example, for dealing with the situation which we are now experiencing every day.

[Cherif] What is the alternative? We say that it is not the fundamentalist movement. There is no possibility of any compromise. Why? Because the compromise is for this situation to go on as it is, in other words, reproducing the crisis by letting its causes remain. [passage omitted]

How can we solve this? If we assume that the Algerian people aspire to democracy, republicanism, progress, and modernity, let us work on that basis. The first step would be a clear, intellectual, political discourse which is hostile to the fundamentalist movement, hostile to the fundamentalist movement in the sense that it reveals the depths of the project for the Islamic state and reveals the interests which are working on the basis of a search for such a solution, in quotes.

But this is not enough [sentence repeated in French]. The system of government must be changed, because as long as the system of government follows the same half-breed, hybrid, political line, not to say something else [preceding words in French] the government's discourse and practices... [pauses] I do not want to judge the intentions of individuals and officials. But what I want to do is to record the development of historical events objectively, to record the ruling regime's hesitations and say that this half-breed discourse is what drives new groups of young people into the arms of the fundamentalist movement, and today into the arms of armed movements.

The solution lies in two historic decisions, the first of which is a boycott of the fundamentalist movement in all its detachments. It is inevitable that we should have the courage to do that. Boycotting the fundamentalist movement—let us be clear—does not means a boycott of Islam; it is not a boycott of our Arab-Islamic heritage because we say that the fundamentalist movement—as it progresses and behaves now—does not at all represent our Arab-Islamic heritage. [passage omitted]. The second solution lies in the changing of the regime. We said in the past that changing the regime might be symbolic by way of a new constitution. We are ready to discuss this subject, and whether we like it or not, the question of the new constitution is in the field to be decided; perhaps we would not decide on it today, but the decision will be inevitable. [passage omitted]. If we work along this basis and decide to ban the use of religion for political purposes, then this undoubtedly would create a new leap in society. The new leap is being expressed by millions of Algerians who are daily resisting the fear, pressure, and terrorism of the fundamentalist movement. This will allow the restoration of the credibility of the state. [passage omitted]. One final word ...

[Allaoui, interrupting] Before the final word, I have a question: Until now the parties which are currently boycotting the dialogue and which are known in the media circles as the democratic parties have not submitted an alternative; I mean the three parties—the FFS, the RCD, and Ettahadi—can they set up from among themselves a democratic force that can strike a balance between the other forces and submit a unified project? What are the reasons for that?

[Cherif] This is true, and we regret and we are very much pained by this. But we must admit that the beginning of a wide democratic front or movement does exist in the field; it exists in the Ettahadi, in the RCD, and in the FFS and even in the FLN [National Liberation Front]—not the supreme leadership of the FLN but in progressive and democratic elements in the FLN. [passage omitted]. We have therefore struggled and are still struggling for a new democratic movement that gathers all democrats. This is the only solution for confronting the murderous enemy that is personified in the threat by the fundamentalist movement, and for confronting all the challenges being raised against the Algerian people—economically, socially, culturally, etc.

[Allaoui] While awaiting this, should the people continue to daily receive news of someone killed, or slaughtered or his head having been cut off—should the people continue to wait for this academic debate among the parties and the various political sides, without naming names?

[Cherif] The question should be addressed to those who carry arms against the people. They should be asked this question. We have no weapons to give up. We have no criminal behavior to abandon, or to be asked to abandon.

[Allaoui] But the stances which the various parties can abandon—what are they?

[Cherif] Let each party specify the stance which they would have. [passage omitted] If there is a minimum possibility for a return to civil peace we not only would be among those in such a movement but at the forefront of it, because we are among the first together with the people who are in need for civil peace but with democracy and the basic liberties.

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[Allaoui] Thank you, Mr. Cherif. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Attackers Kill, Wound Guards at Mallawi Bridge

NC1309071094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry disclosed today that at approximately 2030 yesterday, Monday, unidentified men fired shots at a force guarding the Mallawi Bridge. Conscript Rabi' Jum'ah al-Sayyid was killed and two other conscripts, Rabi' Muhammad Ahmad and Ramadan Taha Ibrahim, were wounded as a result.

The source said the security forces fired back at the attackers seriously wounding one of them while the others managed to flee. The security forcers chased them and another force deployed in the area.

The source added that because the area was completely dark, the sentry unit shot and killed conscript Khayri Naji (?Khayri) by mistake and wounded conscripts Shirbini Ghattas Shirbini and Khayri Ibrahim Mahmud.

Four passers-by were also wounded and the authorities are now searching the area to arrest the culprits.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns Potential Haiti Invasion

LD1209223594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to the Jamahiriyah News Agency in which he said:

If the independent Republic of Haiti, a member state of the United Nations were actually invaded, the invasion would become an international duty, at least historically and theoretically, just as the world was incapable at the time of denouncing the foundation of the 30-state campaign to recover Kuwait, and denouncing the so-called United Nations, its charter and actions, because it has fallen into an intractable contradiction. There is no way out except to dismantle this organization morally and practically.

If this invasion takes place, it will confirm what we have said about the United States of America, its tyranny and threat to humanity. It will also confirm that America is a state without conscience and morals. A state with only fear but no shame.

This invasion, if it does actually happen, will indicate the transformation of the world into a jungle where large animals pray on the small without mercy. The small animals will have no choice then but to group together to protect themselves.

The states that are supporting and contributing to this invasion are cowardly and base.. If it becomes certain that Britain has agreed to or takes part in that invasion, it will be a further evidence of what we have declared earlier, that the so-called Western civilization and Christian culture has collapsed and turned into a lie and a deception.

I appeal to the American president not to turn into an officer implementing standing orders issued by Reagan and Bush. The resignation of a democratic president is a million times better than remaining in office on the corpses of the innocents and the skulls of the peoples of other small nations that are being sacrificed whenever an American president feels his position has weakened inside his country.

I also appeal to the pope to save whatever is possible from the remains of the collapsing structure of Christianity.

The invasion of Haiti has not a single letter to back it in the Charter of the United Nations, nor in international law or ethics. It constitutes a grave precedence in that any state exposed to a wave of outside immigration would have the right to occupy the source of the emigration and the UN would have to support it.

This statement should be recorded within the documents of the United Nations in order to refer to it in future and similar cases.

JANA Editor Views U.S. 'Hostility'

LD1209150794 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [Sep] 12, Jamahiriyah News Agency—An American Government announcement on Friday on Voice of America radio (which is a CIA mouthpiece) reflected the real essence of the US administration's mentality. The announcement shows also that 200 years is perhaps sufficient time to build an industrial or agricultural project but insufficient time to build a country whose international relations should be built on a substantial national history.

The international affairs editor of the Jamahiriyah News Agency said that by portraying official American hostility towards the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah allows the political analysts to be reassured that it stems from a government which is completely irresponsible.

The world is fully aware that the United States is the most terrifying country in the world with its military arsenal whose known force is capable of destroying the earth hundreds of times over, its bases and nuclear installations are planted like cancerous tumours throughout the world against the background of an economic dominance which is practising all sorts of methods and pressures to prolong the lifespan of this hegemony.

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The editor added that the strategic goal of successive American administrations is to dominate the entire world, through crime, terrorist acts and the plunder of nations' wealth, over the bodies of these nations' peoples.

The editor continued: Before the al-Fatih of September 1969, Libya was caught up in the grasp of this vicious American onslaught and the Libyan people were deprived of the most basic forms of human rights enshrined in the charters of western human rights societies. There wasn't even the minimum of understanding between the United States and Libya, not even the bare understanding between a master and slave. The American-Libyan dispute began immediately after Libya emancipated itself from slavery on the first of September 1969, when the United States faced a new form of confrontation.

When American attempts to manipulate and coerce failed, the United States began to prepare plans and programmes and to destroy the vocabulary of values in enacting these plans, in the most despicable manner against the Libyan people. The United States mobilised all its economic, political, and scientific resources as well as its collaborators to launch a real war which three times reached their final stages in military aggression in sea and land.

Liberating Libyan will, the development the Libyan people achieved, and their unwillingness to submit to American hegemony is the crux of the dispute between the Americans and the Libyans.

The Great Man Made River is a free river which flows from our land to nourish Libyan petrol, it flows from our land to nourish it and the free will that we have, it flows from a history which stretches from the annals of thousands of years of history. This is the arsenal that the Libyan people have in their confrontation against American plans, the ultimate aim which is to colonise us under the pretext of the new world order which the United States is using to colonise other countries as well. They think that Libya is their share in North Africa.

The United States has not spared any opportunity to attack Libya on all fronts, economically, politically and militarily with the 1986 air attack aimed at the leader of our revolution personally, an attack unprecedented in international politics.

The American spider wove the Lockerbie web of deceit and lies to dupe the world that this was the reason for their hostility. Libya is a country where more than half of its people payed a heavy price for their freedom, ready to fight to the very last man or woman, without giving up their independence, freedom, dignity or right to self determination.

Official American enmity towards the Great Jamahiriyah and the leader of the revolution represents an essential pivot of American policy with the aim of subjugating the Libyan people. On the 28th of Hannibal 1991, at the inauguration of the Great Man Made River [words indistinct] the leader of the revolution said that American hostility towards Libya would continue so long as the Libyan wil rem- ined free and [word indistinct] us will continue to fabricate pretexts to fight us. This was the case only six months after the Lockerbie incident, where the US used the blood of innocent people for their devious ends against a peaceful people who refuse to relent, refuse to give up their freedom, their dignity, their development, Arab unity. Death to the enemy, nations will always be prepared to build their secure future.

Daily Claims Film Will Prove Claims on Lockerbie

LD1209151694 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [Sep] 12, Jamahiriyah News Agency—In its editorial today, 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH' commented on the statement made by the president of Lonrho International when he said that if the film about the Lockerbie incident is produced it will completely exonerate Libya from responsibility in the Lockerbie incident.

Rowlands' statement proves that Libya is not involved in the Lockerbie incident, furthermore, it proved something else. It proves that the western countries had devious intentions.

The statement proves that there is no freedom of information and the press in the west, and it won't be wrong of us to say that the western press and politicians are drawn into this delusion., particularly when they talk about human rights.

How can there be freedom, when a country knows that this film contains the truth which would exonerate another country? Then this film is to be banned from being shown in the western countries, and has even been condemned before it has finished production, so how can there be any respect for the American or British people?

Mauritania

UFD Elects New Secretary General

AB1209125294 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Ahmed Ould Dadah has a new political stature in Mauritania. The brother of former Mauritanian President Moctar Ould Dadah has been elected to head the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD], the main opposition party in Mauritania. This happened yesterday at the end of the proceedings of the first national council meeting. Salem Mesbour Salem sent this report from Nouakchott:

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[Begin Salem recording] The national council session of the UFD, the main opposition party in Mauritania, was marked by the election of Ahmed Ould Dadah as secretary general of the party. Ahmed Ould Dadah, who is the younger brother of first Mauritanian President Moctar Ould Dadah who ruled from 1960 to 1968 and was toppled by a military coup d'etat, has been the first coordinator of the UFD since 1992 when he participated in the first multiparty presidential election in Mauritania as the UFD's candidate.

The national council approved the UFD permanent committee's report on restructuring. Thus, the posts of first, second, and third coordinator of the party have been dropped. The executive bureau was reduced to 43 members instead of the initial 64. The same goes for the permanent committee which was reduced from 17 to 15 members. With this restructuring, the UFD intends to reemerge on the Mauritanian political scene. The party has just launched its first implantation campaign throughout the country.

The UFD national council appointed Diouf Mamadou Amadou, former minister of education and rural development, as its deputy secretary-general. The second, third, and fourth deputies are: (Moustapha Ould Beredine), former Commerce Minister Sidi Ould Ahmed Taya; and Kouita Tijane, the senatorial [word indistinct] in the Mauritanian parliament. [end recording]

Morocco

Pakistan's Bhutto Arrives on State Visit

LD1209124094 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Fez, 12 Sep (MAP)—Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs Benazir Bhutto arrived here this Monday on a short state visit to Morocco.

The Pakistani premier was welcomed at the airport by Moroccan Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With King Hassan

LD1209205294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had a meeting with King Hassan the Second of Morocco at the royal palace today. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto discussed with King Hassan a number of urgent issues confronting the Muslim ummah. The two leaders also discussed matters of mutual interest. The prime minister was accompanied by Mr. Asif Ali (Zardari) and Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. The prime minister flew into Rabat in the evening. She was received, among others, by the governor of Rabat and a number of senior officials, Pakistan embassy officials, and Pakistanis living in Morocco. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto also visited the mausoleum of Mohammed the Fifth and offered (Fatiya).

Radio Pakistan's correspondent reports that the prime minister was accorded a warm welcome when she arrived in Fez today to begin a two-day official visit to Morocco. She was received at the airport, among others, by the Moroccan Prime Minister Mr. Abdellatif Filali. Moroccan dignitaries were introduced to her. A smartly turned out contingent of Moroccan Armed Forces presented a guard of honor to the prime minister.

In an airport statement Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto said both Pakistan and Morocco had supported each other's point of view at international forums and they would continue to do so. She said her late father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, visited Morocco in 1970 and this is her second visit to this country. The prime minister said they will soon be holding a (?women) Olympics in Pakistan and invited Morocco to participate in it. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto said Morocco had a great cultural heritage and Pakistan would like to learn from its experience in arts and architecture. She particularly praised (?model) work and designs of mosques, which she said are of particular interest to Pakistan. The prime minister and members of her delegation also attended a luncheon hosted in their honor by the governor of Fez.

Comments on Nuclear Aims, Kashmir

LD1209130694 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 12 (MAP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto asserted that her country's nuclear program is used to peaceful ends and only targets social and economic development.

Mrs. Bhutto who started this Monday a state visit to Morocco told Moroccan daily "AL ITTIHAD AL ICHTIRAKI" that each nation has the right to resort to nuclear technology for peaceful ends and that Pakistan is determined to reach that goal. The threat of nuclear weapons propagation in southern Asia comes from India's nuclear capacity, she said. Since India tested its atomic bomb, Mrs Bhutto said, Pakistan has made several proposals to avoid the proliferation of atomic weapons in the region. Pakistan proposed in this respect that the two countries adhere to the international convention on nuclear weapons or accept that their nuclear facilities be inspected by the international atomic energy agency. Unfortunately, India rejected the two proposals, Mrs Bhutto deplored.

About the Kashmir issue, Mrs. Bhutto expressed hope that the international community would pressure India to put an end to the ordeal of the inhabitants of Kashmir and implement the Security Council resolutions as a fair and lasting solution likely to restore peace and stability in the region.

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As to the Arab countries' backing to the Kashmir issue, Mrs. Bhutto said the resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference on the matter were adopted with the support of Arab states which have repeatedly called for a fair solution based on the right of the Kashmir people to self-rule.

To a question on relations between the United States and Pakistan, Mrs. Bhutto said these relations are mutually advantageous and are mainly based on the establishment of a fair and lasting peace in southern Asia.

Filali Addresses Banquet for Pakistan's Bhutto

LD1309013094 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Address by Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali at a dinner banquet for visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on 12 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, respected Prime Minister, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: It is a source of delight and happiness to receive today the respected Mrs. Benazir Bhutto in the first official visit to Morocco by a Pakistani prime minister. We are convinced this visit will, God willing, strengthen the good relations between our two brotherly countries so that they can reach the level we look forward to. Your visit will give us the opportunity to exchange points of view regarding issues of our common interest, particularly challenges facing the Islamic nation in a world witnessing unprecedented deep and rapid developments.

The latest conference [of the Islamic Conference Organization's, ICO's, foreign ministers] held in Islamabad has showed Pakistan's active and effective contribution and role within the ICO. Its results were highly valued and welcomed by everybody.

Respected Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, it is not possible to talk about the relations between our two countries without mentioning first of all and with a great deal of praise and gratitude Pakistan's honoring stance when Morocco was fighting in the 1950s to bring an end to the [French] protectorate and regain its full independence. Morocco found in your country total support on various levels, including Pakistan's representatives' intensive activities in various international organizations in the interest of Morocco. This laid the first foundations of Moroccan-Pakistani relations, which were established and strengthened on the basis of the unified tolerant faith of Islam, the compatibility of our two countries' goals and aspirations, and our common belief in the principles of good neighborliness, cooperation, and dialogue in a framework of equality and mutual respect.

Morocco and Pakistan's efforts continued since 1958, the date diplomatic ties were established between our two countries, to develop bilateral relations. A legal frame work was established for those relations through the signing of a number of agreements, which included cultural, trade, air transport, tourism, and other sectors.

I am delighted to point out on this occasion that your visit will be crowned by the signing of a new trade agreement that gives a fresh impetus to our exchange as well as an implementation plan of the cultural and scientific agreement for 1995-1998.

On our part, we believe our two countries are required to further encourage and improve prospects and sectors of bilateral cooperation, especially now that resources and expertise allow a major development in our relations, a development Morocco and Pakistan are familiar with because of the policies of economic openness we both apply to set an example of cooperation between two countries of the south.

Encouraging contacts between our experts and exchanging efficiencies in trade, culture, and economics as well as delegations would deepen the ties of brotherhood between our two people, open the door for tangible and fruitful cooperation, and give a new dynamism to our bilateral relations.

The presence of ministers concerned with economic and cultural sectors in the delegation accompanying you is the best proof for your sharing of these goals.

Relations between Moroccan and Pakistan deepened despite the long distance separating them. We are convinced your visit and the talks we are to hold will definitely contribute to laying new foundations that will meet our two peoples' aspirations and give our bilateral relations new ways to serve our common interests.

Finally, I would like to welcome you again in your second country. I invite our guests to stand up in respect for the respectable lady, Pakistan's prime minister, and our best wishes to her excellency for good health and success in her duties and continuous prosperity and progress for the two brotherly peoples of Morocco and Pakistan.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Palestinian Authority Official Visits Kingdom

LD1209222694 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Ilyas Frayj, the minister of tourism and monuments in the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Morocco today on an official visit at the invitation of the Minister of Tourism Serge Berdugo.

The Palestinian official made the following statement on arrival at Rabat-Sale airport:

[Begin Frayj recording] This is the first visit to brotherly Morocco. We salute his majesty the king, his government, and the friendly Moroccan people. We are here, thanks to God, between brothers and friends, and we are looking forward with hope and optimism to the future.

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It is the Palestinians and the Israelis' destiny to live together in one country, which is the holy land; this is why we have to live in love and peace and in relations of good neighborliness based on the respect of everybody's rights. We stress the freedom of movement and work for the Israelis and the Palestinians on an equal footing. [end recording]

Sudan

Authorities Close Newspaper, Question Editors

NC1209144394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the Sudanese authorities have closed the office of AL-KHARTUM INTERNATIONAL in Sudan. The newspaper is published in Cairo and circulated worldwide.

The correspondent said the Sudanese authorities withdrew the editors' press cards without giving any reason. The authorities also failed to warn the office as stipulated by the new Sudanese National Press Council and Publications Law.

The correspondent also learned that the Sudanese security services questioned editors about articles published by the newspaper, which was banned from entering Sudan recently. The ban included the newspaper's sports supplement, which is published and distributed separately as one of the publications of the Khartoum Publishing and Printing House, which owns the newspaper. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sayyid, deputy director of the office, was arrested three months ago. No reason for his arrest was given and he has not been brought to trial.

Protests Reported in Far North for 'First Time'

NC1209145794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (MENA)—For the first time in the region's history the far north of Sudan has been the scene of demonstrations and acts of violence in the past few days. These have been taking place in the city of 'Abri. Police used tear gas and clubs and fired live ammunition at demonstrators. A female student was struck by a bullet and is being treated at the city's hospital. The Sudanese police arrested 75 people.

According to eyewitnesses, the demonstrations broke out to protest rising local taxes imposed on crop yields and livestock and the local authorities' failure to pay employees' salaries for over three months. The Sudanese local authorities' decision to restrict wedding celebrations to just before the sunset prayers was the main cause of the recent events.

A city council official explained that the commander of the civilian police acted irrationally and hastily by opening fire on citizens, thus inflaming the situation. The situation could not be brought under control before additional troops were called in from Wadi Halfa, the capital of the governorate.

Civilian police and extra troops are still roaming the streets, anticipating any further friction, while detainees are still being questioned. Approximately half of them have been released.

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Bahrain

UK's Douglas Hurd Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1209103694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Manama, 11 Sep (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his delegation left Manama for Bangkok this evening at the conclusion of a short visit to Bahrain. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, Chief of Protocol Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, British Ambassador to Bahrain Hugh James Tunnell, and the minister's office director Yusuf Mahmud.

The Bahraini foreign minister had earlier met with Douglas Hurd and discussed with him a number of issues of common concern, including bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation and Arab, regional, and international developments.

Kuwait

France Negotiating Details of Arms Deal

MM0909144294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Faris Salman: "France Stresses Its Fixed Position on Sanctions Imposed Against Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—France yesterday stressed that it will continue to support international legitimacy and adhere to its resolutions on the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. And that there has been no change in its position on the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime.

An authoritative source at the French Embassy in Kuwait has said that negotiations are being conducted between Kuwait and France to conclude an arms deal for Kuwait. The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that France's position on the international resolutions compelling Iraq to implement them is clear and known. The source pointed out that there will be no reason for France to change its position as long as Iraq has not implemented the resolutions related to the Gulf war.

On the negotiations being conducted between Kuwait and France to conclude an arms deal for the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry, the source confirmed that "negotiations are being conducted between the two countries to purchase arms, including gunboats, radars, and missiles." The source pointed out that details of the value and quantity of these arms have not been determined yet.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Dr. Tariq Ruzuqi had said that Kuwait "is about to complete details of a contract for the purchase of eight patrol boats."

The French statement coincides with the UN Security Council's regular review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi regime's maneuvers regarding its recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty without recognizing the border demarcation.

For his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, acting Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the UN Security Council will renew the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime during its next review.

Regarding the deal, official Kuwaiti reports have said that the two countries are about to complete details of the deal. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Visit 'Not Related to Rapprochement'

JN0909150794 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 29 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri]

[Excerpt] A top official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stressed that the visit of a senior Jordanian diplomat to Kuwait is not related to any rapprochment on Kuwaiti-Jordanian bilateral ties.

The official, in a statement to KUWAIT TIMES while commenting on a Reuter news report, said that the nature of Jordanian diplomat's visit is only administrative as occurs in every three or four months for inspection of offices of the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait, pay the premises' rent in addition to other civil obligations.

He explained that these regular visits take place in accordance with diplomatic agreements and international norms.

The official reaffirmed the visit does not indicate an change in the Kuwaiti stance towards Jordan, hintng that the Jordanian delegate will not meet with any senior officials of the Foreign Ministry during his visit here.

The ministry's role will only be confined to giving him an entry visa to Kuwait, he said.

Earlier yesterday, Reuter reported from Amman that Jordan would send a senior diplomat on a visit to Kuwait soon for the first time since the Gulf War ended in February 1991, diplomats said. [passage omitted]

Eritrean President Arrives for Visit

LD1209110994 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Isaias Afwerki, president of the State of Eritrea, and the accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport at 1230 this afternoon on a working visit to the country. [passage omitted]

'Societies' Reportedly Funding Arab Terrorism

JN0909122594 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Sep 94 pp 12-14

[Article by Walid Abu-Zahr: "AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Reveals Secrets Of The Kuwaiti Fundamentalists Scheme; Kuwaiti Islamic Groups Finance Arab Terrorism"]

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[Text] Many people still think that Iran is the main financier of fundamentalist terrorism in the world. Iran is, unquestionably, an important source of finances, but is not the only or even the most important source. Information obtained by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI may come as a shock to many. Confirmed information, which the paper obtained from a friend with links to certain agencies, reveals that Kuwaiti societies, under the cover of Islamic preaching and charitable work, are the main source of financing for many fundamentalists movements, including the Arab Afghans.

What is even more dangerous is that a "board of directors," which secretly supervises the work of these societies, has reached the conclusion that the large amount of money spent on the extremist movements in the Arab homeland have not yielded the required result; that is to establish regimes that can be connected to the Kuwaiti groups through the arteries of funds. Therefore, it decided to move to inside Kuwait and the surrounding Gulf states to try to achieve what it failed to achieve in other Arab countries. The friend stressed that the Kuwaiti Government has nothing to do with the activities of these societies and is not aware of their activities because of the tight secrecy that engulfs these activities and because these societies follow very intricate methods to transmit messages and instructions.

The conversation with the friend started with what was announced by the Sultanate of Oman recently on the arrest of an extremist fundamentalist organization. That incident came as a surprise to Arab and foreign diplomatic quarters. However, reports by certain secret agencies anticipated this surprise.

I told my friend: This is not the first time the concerned authorities in Oman have discover such groups. In 1992, arrests were made within the ranks of the Tabligh [Islamic preaching] Group. In 1993, members of a Salafi [Islamic ultra-orthodox] group were arrested.

He said: But this time, it was noticed that of the over 400 people arrested, there were prominent figures, businessmen, Army officers, and senior government staff. This shows the extent of the fundamentalist trend's penetration into the state, as well as its organizational capability in a country known for its stability and ability to control the moves of illegitimate groups.

[Abu-Zahr] But according to my information, the arrests were made some time ago. So, why was there a delay in making an announcement?

["Friend"] You are right. Delaying the announcement has produced many interpretations. We know that the arrests started in May and continued for several weeks, until the end of July. Undoubtedly, Oman had its reasons for delaying the announcement, the most important of which is probably to maintain the secrecy of the investigations, especially since Oman has accused this fundamentalist organization of having foreign links and receiving financial support from certain states.

[Abu-Zahr] What I know is that Shaykh Ahmad al-Ghazali and his brothers, Hamid and Salim, are among the detainees. They are of Yemeni origin and are from the dignitaries of Dhofar. They come from a wealthy family that owns most of the aluminum factories in the region. Also among the detainees are Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian, and perhaps other Gulf nationals.

["Friend"] This line of thinking may go in the wrong direction. What you want to say is that this network is linked to Yemeni fundamentalists, proceeding from the unity of fundamentalism. You may be partly right. The regions of Dhofar and Salalah, where most of the arrests were concentrated, are geographically contiguous to southern Yemen. Hadhramaut is currently witnessing the emergence of fundamentalist leaders such as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bakir, head of the Yemeni Reform Grouping in the region, and Shaykh Abu-Bakr Haddad, who is a prominent clergyman. This, in addition to the fact that extremist fundamentalist leader 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Zindani is exerting extensive efforts to gain powerful positions in Hadhramaut. We realize that historically, what happens in Hadhramaut must reflect on Dhofar and Salalah. The presence of Yemeni instigation or assistance to the Omani fundamentalist network is something that cannot be proven. The Yemeni fundamentalists so far are preoccupied with their domestic problems and with the fight over power. They themselves are receiving major aid from outside.

[Abu-Zahr] So, in your opinion, against which country was the Omani statement leveling accusations?

["Friend"] Let us reach a conclusion gradually. First, we must be aware that the organization planned to take over power after forming the Shura Council and appointing a woman in it. It should be pointed out that the Sultanate does not allow religious institutions to interfere in the process of modernization. Moreover, one of the organization's members is a colonel in the military.

[Abu-Zahr] What does this mean?

["Friend"] This means that the organization made its move based on internal factors and not on the background of what took place in Yemen. It also made its move based on the control of the fundamentalist current over the authority. Besides, it should be clear to you that this organization is linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, which is active in the region, especially in Kuwait.

[Abu-Zahr] Are you saying that Kuwait is the country backing the Omani organization?

["Friend"] Not so specifically. I am not talking about Kuwait as a country, but as organizations and societies in Kuwait.

[Abu-Zahr] What organizations? As far as I know, there are no terrorist or extremist groups in Kuwait!

["Friend"] Not terrorist groups—well, maybe a few. However, there is something much more serious than this.

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[Abu-Zahr] I do not understand!

["Friend"] There is a mastermind and a financier who controls millions.

[Abu-Zahr] All I know is that in Kuwait, there are many Islamic charity societies that work in the field of Islamic preaching. It is true that there are many Islamic societies that are spread throughout Kuwait and carry out charity, social, and preaching activities. However, these societies are not terrorists, despite some bombings to protest banning female students from taking university examinations while wearing the veil or banning veiled women from driving cars.

["Friend"] This is what is happening on the surface. It is a cover. The truth is much more serious than this. Terrorist financiers pleaded to these societies to reap huge amounts of money to be spent for terrorist schemes in Arab countries. Even zakah [Islamic alms tax] money was directed to serve their goals. They even began to secretly use the Kuwait Finance House—which operates publicly as an Islamic bank—to direct their money to Arab fundamentalist movements without the bank's knowledge.

[Abu-Zahr] Will the Kuwaiti Government keep silent about these movements' practices?

["Friend"] You must note that before the invasion of Kuwait, there was a kind of a truce between the government and the Islamists, who refrained from pestering the government about Islamic shari'a in exchange for granting them freedom of movement. This freedom allowed the free flow of Kuwaiti fundamentalist money. Are you aware that the Hamas Movement was established in Kuwait? Accusing the fedayeen groups of infidelity because they were calling for a secular state in Palestine, the Kuwaiti fundamentalist groups found no other way to face the general criticism of its stand except to encourage Palestinian figures to form fundamentalist Palestinian groups, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Money poured in to Hamas until it was able to build its popularity, which sometimes surpassed that of Fatah, the biggest Palestinian organization.

The other cover was the Afghan fighting. This was exploited in order to collect millions that were sent in other directions. Afghanistan was merely a channel for this money to finance terrorist organizations in the Arab world.

Other projects were exploited as covers, such as charity organizations and assistance for Arab Islamic societies. Indeed, some Kuwaiti charity organizations were safe havens for dozens who were forced to flee their countries after participating in fundamentalist terrorism.

You are no doubt aware of the arrest of the Kuwaiti national Ahmad al-Jubayli in Egypt. He had thousands of pounds in his possession which he came to distribute to fundamentalist groups, under the cover of assistance to humanitarian organizations in Egypt. Al-Jubayli was released only after the Kuwaiti Government's direct intervention. It was subsequently agreed that all humanitarian assistance should pass through official Egyptian establishments. This picture also has another side. There are the Shiite religious centers in Kuwait, especially Iranian centers. These centers served as a pipeline through which millions flowed into Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon.

[Abu-Zahr] All this is understandable and acceptable.

["Friend"] Certainly not. The money did not go to charity work at all. The money was used to finance terrorist movements in the Arab world.

[Abu-Zahr] At the outset, you told me that this was the case before the invasion of Kuwait. Is this still the case?

["Friend"] According to our information, this was the case almost until a year ago.

[Abu-Zahr] And now?

["Friend"] Almost a year ago, the situation changed. The Islamic movements think that the government is in a weaker position following the liberation of Kuwait. Therefore, these movements are demanding the opening of files that show the parties responsible for failing to face the invasion. They are also raising Islamic issues, such as the attitude toward veiled women, giving women public posts, in addition to their demanding the disclosure of violations on the highest levels.

These movements have sensed their strength, especially after they managed to collect thousands of weapons left over from the Iraqi invasion. According to our information, those weapons are now stored in mosques controlled by Islamic societies and in the houses of influential people and wealthy merchants.

[Abu-Zahr] I see we have departed from our basic issue, the Islamic movements' connection to what took place in Oman.

["Friend"] Not at all. However, we will reach what you want to know by way of reason. These movements felt they were strong. Meanwhile, their plans in some Arab states such as Egypt received a fatal blow. Our information says approximately five months ago there was a meeting attended by "prominent" Islamists who discussed profits and losses. The attendees learned that hundreds of millions spent on "the brothers in jihad" were lost in vain, and that "others" invested these funds to achieve their own interest, so they became stronger while the Kuwaiti financiers remained in the shadow. Views were almost unanimous that, regardless of the money spent, the Kuwaiti "Board of Directors," consisting of Islamic movement leaders, cannot, for objective reasons, influence the Islamic movements, whether Arab or non-Arab. Hence, the attendees made another decision.

[Abu-Zahr] Naturally, I am eager to learn about this decision. However, is what you call the "Board of Directors" known?

["Friend"] You know that the Kuwaiti community is a small community. Nothing can be kept secret in it. People there talk about everyone. However, it should be

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acknowledged that the members of this Board of Directors are very intelligent; they managed to keep their identities and contacts secret. For example, the Kuwaitis traditionally visit each other in the diwaniyahs [places where social meetings take place]. Thus, members of the "Board of Directors" may visit a diwaniyah and exchange views, information, or directives without other diwaniyah visitors knowing anything about them. A member may also cite a Koranic verse during a general talk and use a word wrongly. This "mistake" may be a coded message to another member, and so on.

Our information says this way of conveying messages was also successfully used to convey information and instructions between those inside and those outside a country. For instance, in a seminar in a mosque, where a member of the group studies, one member of the audience may ask a specific question. This person may have been dispatched by an Arab fundamentalist movement, and this mosque may have been identified as a liaison place. Thus, the "preacher" will understand that the question is a message awaiting a response. He, however, will not answer the question directly; he will convey the message to his subordinates in a coded way during an ordinary session in a diwaniyah. He may receive a response in the same way and convey it to the "envoy" who asked the question in the same manner. Hence, all parties remain anonymous!

Here is the answer to your question: The Board of Directors is absolutely unknown. It does not comprise known Islamic personalities, who are entrusted with making public appearances. The real leadership is totally secret and is only known by a very narrow circle of extremely reliable persons.

[Abu-Zahr] I can now ask you: What was the decision made by the secret "Board of Directors?"

[Friend] I already told you that the "Board of Directors" held a secret meeting approximately five months ago. Strictly speaking, the meeting was held in the diwaniyah of a very well-known merchant in the al-Dahiyah area, which is viewed as the "Beverly Hills" of Kuwait. It is no secret that all attendees were senior businessmen from families which traditionally control Kuwaiti trade. Do not ask me where I obtained this information. However, it is in our interest to have good relations with all parties, so all cards will be in our hands. A piece of information today may save us an army tomorrow.

What is important is that at this meeting the attendees assessed the successes of the Arab fundamentalist movement in Egypt and some Arab maghreb states. The analysis made was that it was ironic that the only state in which fundamentalism achieved progress was Yemen. Relations with the movement in Yemen were severed due to the Yemeni position which supported Iraq during the Kuwait war. As for Algeria, the U.S. and Western intelligence services are tampering with the fundamentalist movements, which have differences among them in light of their diverse territorial and tribal affiliations.

As for Egypt, the fundamentalist movements failed to achieve anything. The security forces dealt them a deadly blow. Most Egyptians see fundamentalists as the enemies of societies and as pariahs. The same applies to the Arab Maghreb countries. As for Sudan, Hasan al-Turabi has his own calculations for leading the Muslims which conflict with the dreams of the Kuwaiti groups.

The conferees also said the Hamas movement in Palestine has put itself outside the mainstream. Therefore, there is no hope from it. As for the fundamentalists in Jordan, they no longer have any impact.

One of the attendees, a member of a well-known family and who loves agriculture, especially the cultivation of palm trees, said there is no use in lamenting the millions that have been squandered, and that it would be better to draw up an alternative plan.

Another member, a leading figure in a voluntary Islamic institution said: We have paid attention to what takes place abroad and forgot our region and the local level. We are somewhat popular and have representatives in Parliament, and many Kuwaitis depend on our services. Then why do we not act on the domestic front?

A senior member who is known for his wisdom said: I agree with what the brother said. We have many members, and we have influence. However, circumstances in Kuwait nowadays are not propitious. You know there is international protection for the ruling family and that foreign "mercenary" soldiers protect Kuwait. We cannot enter into a confrontation with them, not to mention that we in Kuwait, in view of our nature, never resort to violence. We are all members of the same tribe. Until the appropriate circumstances materialize, we will be content with political confrontation of the government while trying to establish Islamic rule in our area.

The attendees then reviewed the countries in the region one by one. They assessed the Islamic forces in them and their relations with these forces. In the end, everyone agreed on Oman because it has a deep-rooted fundamentalist movement and because it has common borders with Yemen, which is now being ruled by the fundamentalists. This will make it easy to send assistance to the Omani fundamentalists, particularly when we realize that the leaders of Yemeni fundamentalists are in the border town of Dhofar and Salalah.

One of those attending said that the Omani fundamentalist movements are angry because they are being kept at a distance and are not consulted on the modernization process under way in the country. The appointment of Shura Council members to take place in a few months could be the occasion to incite these movements to carry out some kind of action against the regime.

Agreement was reached on this point. The necessary funds were allocated. It was agreed to send a large part of these sums to Yemen, specifically to tribal fundamentalist figures in Hadhramaut who will be ready to offer

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assistance to the brothers in Dhofar when needed, and to smuggle weapons to fundamentalists there.

At the meeting, one of the members was charged with travelling to Yemen through Djibouti with the money and instructions. Another figure who has trade relations with the aluminum plant owned by the al-Ghazali family in the Dhofar area was also charged to travel to the Sultanate to encourage and support the brothers in Oman.

The senior participant said: If the Omani brothers succeed in their moves, then this will set a precedent for us. If they fail, we will only lose some money. We can afford that.

[Abu-Zahr] Are they not afraid they will be exposed and the Sultanate will ask Kuwait to arrest them?

["Friend"] In these matters, denial saves ones's skin. In any case, the Kuwaiti Government will have no interest in open confrontation with us. So far, the Kuwaiti Government knows nothing about us, and if we succeed in maintaining secrecy, it will not know anything.

Oman

Yemeni President Arrives, Meets Sultan Qabus

JN1209151694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] At 1030, Sanaa time, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, arrived in Salalah on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, he will hold talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries and means to reinforce and develop these relations, as well as issues and developments of interest to the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id led those who received the brother president at Salalah Airport. [passage omitted]

Accompanied by His Majesty Sultan Qabus, the brother president headed for his place of residence where the two leaders held a session of talks that dealt with issues and developments in the regional arena and issues of common interest. The brother president briefed his brother Sultan Qabus on the stable situation in our country—after quelling the sedition ignited by the agent traitor secessionists, led by traitor al-Bid, with the aim of tearing up the homeland—as well as efforts to overcome the repercussions of the war and to rebuild and reconstruct it. He noted our country's sincere desire to open a new chapter in the march of national reconstruction and to reinforce and develop relations with brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states to meet the aspirations of these states and to reinforce security, stability, and peace in the region. He also noted the importance of coordination and the joint role the two fraternal neighborly countries can play toward this noble goal to serve the interest of the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states, support the peace process in the region, and serve the higher interests of our Arab nation.

For his part, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id reiterated the Sultanate of Oman's stand which supports Yemeni unity and our people's efforts to overcome the repercussions of the war. Sultan Qabus reiterated the Sultanate of Oman's eagerness to reinforce and develop brotherly bilateral relations and to broaden these relations in all fields to serve the joint interest and translate the aspirations of both neighborly countries. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the Omani media upon arrival at Salalah Airport, the brother president said: I am happy to pay this visit to the Sultanate of Oman and to meet with my brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus and hold talks with him on issues dealing with reinforcing and developing brotherly relations between the two fraternal neighborly countries as well as issues and developments of interest to our Arab nation, especially to the Arabian Penninsula and Gulf states. He added: We in the Yemeni Republic, especially after our people achieved victory for their unity—thanks be to God—and after consecrating the bases of this unity and quelling the seditions ignited by the traitor secessionists in order to tear up the homeland and to destroy its unity, have always been aspiring for developed brotherly relations with the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states based on mutual respect, good neighborliness, and fruitful brotherly cooperation to serve the interest and progress of the peoples and to reinforce security, stability, and peace in the region.

Departs After Visit

JN1209151994 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the fraternal Republic of Yemen, and the accompanying delegation left the country today after a short visit to the Sultanate. During the visit, he held talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on reinforcing the existing relations between the two fraternal countries, recent developments in the Yemeni arena, and issues of common interest. His majesty the sultan led those who bade his excellency the Yemeni president farewell upon his departure from Salalah Civil Airport. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Bosnian Prime Minister Arrives in Doha

LD1109124794 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Doha, 11 Sep (SPA)—Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi on Sunday [11 September] on a two-day visit to Qatar.

The Qatar News Agency said "he will have talks with senior officials on strengthening bilateral cooperation and reviewing the latest military and political developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

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Confers With Heir Apparent

JN1109194194 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Doha, Sep. 11 (GNA)—Qatari Deputy Amir and Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani met here today with the Bosnian Prime Minister Dr. Haris Silajdzic who is visiting the country.

Qatari News Agency said that the Qatari deputy amir reiterated Qatar's firm support for the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its condemnation of the massacres and the aggressions of Serbs against the Bosnian people.

For his part, Dr. Silajdzic welcomed Qatar's support for his country at regional and international fora, emphasising that Qatar's position emanated from the spirit of Islam which links the two countries.

Views were exchanged at the meeting on the Islamic and international efforts, especially the recommendations of the recent Muslim foreign ministers conference in Islamabad, which called for the lifting of the arms embargo [on] Bosnian Muslims. The discussions also centered on relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Ends Visit

LD1209140294 Riyadh SPA in English 1303 GMT 12 Sep 94

Doha, 12 Sep (SPA)—Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic left Doha on Monday after talks with Qatari officials on the latest military and political developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Qatari news agency QNA said.

Silajdzic is on a tour of Gulf Arab states. His talks in Doha dealt with "means of consolidating between the two countries," QNA said.

Saudi Arabia

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD1309084194 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 0732 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino arrived this morning in Saudi Arabia, coming from Tirana, on a visit devoted to furthering the Middle East peace process.

At 1100, Martino will meet Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. At 1330, he will hold talks with Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

In the afternoon, a meeting is planned with the Saudi ruler, King Fahd. Martino will return to Rome tomorrow.

Crown Prince Chairs Regular Cabinet Session

LD1209213094 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 12, SPA—The Council of Ministers held its regular weekly session at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon under the chairmanship of Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard.

'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) afterwards that the outset of the meeting, the cabinet reviewed reports on the most important and latest events on Arab and international arenas. Mohammed Ibrahim Mas'ud, the cabinet's member and state minister briefed the council on the outcome of the recent extraordinary meeting held by the Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad and the recommendations made by the meeting.

Commenting on some domestic matters, al-Sha'ir added, Crown Prince Abdallah emphasized the need for promotion of public awareness on the necessity for constant rationalization of water and electricity and urged the minister of agriculture and water and ministry of industry and electricity to chart necessary plans to realise the purpose and the minister of information was also asked to enroll public media for a public awareness campaign.

Al-Sha'ir said the cabinet also discussed plans for improvement of drainage networks in urban and rural centres after being briefed by Dr. Muhammad al-Shaykh, the minister of municipal and rural affairs on the current situation of drainage system nationwide.

In context, al-Sha'ir said, Crown Prince Abdallah ordered the implementation of adequate measures to upgrade the performance of the vital sector to ensure maximum comfort for citizens and protect the environment at the same time.

Referring to the agricultural sector, Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz underlined the necessity for enlightening farmers on how to realise their best interests in view of the unlimited support being rendered by the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to encourage the farming sector and diversify agricultural products.

The cabinet also reviewed a number of domestic items on its agenda and approved amendment of Articles 6 and 9 of the resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 290 dated on 29-2-1398 [29 January 1978] about the formation of the Supreme Council of Antiquities to be read as follows:

Article 6 - a representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Endowments, Call and Guidance at grade 10 at least as a member.

Article 9 - assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Antiquities and Museums Affairs as a member and reporter.

The cabinet also endorsed some appointments to grade 14 at the Ministry of Justice.

Interior Ministry Announces Executions

LD0909122694 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued three statements today on the execution of five people: three Saudis for

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murder and two Pakistanis for smuggling heroin. The executions took place today, 9 September.

The first was a Saudi named Abderrahim Bin 'Amir Bin 'Umayr al-Hazimi, executed in Mecca for burning his father inside his car.

The second group were two Saudis named Fahd Bin Muhammad Bin Faraj al-Duwaysiri and Muhammad Bin Di'ykan al-Duwasiri, for killing a man and his grandson in revenge. They were executed today in Riyad.

The third group were two Pakistanis named Danber Muhammad Qul and Ali Nawwaz Muhammad Aziz, for smuggling a quantity of heroin into the Kingdom. They were executed today in Mecca.

Minister on Government's Environmental Policy

LD1209144494 Riyadh SPA in English 1306 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Sep (SPA)—Communications Minister Husayn al-Mansuri has stressed that all accomplishments realized by the kingdom under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz aimed primarily to serve Saudi citizens and provide means of comfort, security and reassurance for them.

In a statement to SPA, al-Mansuri stressed that Saudi citizens are the real treasure of this country and pointed out that the Saudi Government also works to protect them from pollution and automobile accidents.

On the occasion of the issuance of a Communications Ministry report on its role in limiting pollution and protecting the environment, al-Mansuri stated that the kingdom is at the forefront of states which attach great importance to conservation and protection of the environment.

He said the state, represented by the Ministry of Communicaitons, has attached great importance to the environmental factor during the development of the roads network.

He explained that many circular roads were established around major cities to facilitate the flow of traffic and protect the cities from pollution caused by car exhaust and the noise produced by these cars.

He also pointed to the planting of trees on major routes inside and around cities, cleaning the roads from harmful waste and reducing the trips made by small passenger cars by introducing the Saudi Arabian Transports Company (SAPTCO) service for commuting students or employees.

Finally, he stressed the dangers posed by various types of pollution which threaten human life on earth and pointed out that many countries around the globe exert intensive efforts to fight these dangers.

He also praised the idea of the environmental awareness project in the kingdom which reflects the importance attached to this vital field by the Saudi Government.

United Arab Emirates

Deputy Prime Minister Supports Bosnian Muslims

LD1109123794 Riyadh SPA in English 1215 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Sep (SPA)—United Arab Emirates Deputy Premier Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan has voiced his country's support for the Bosnian Moslem people, who suffer from repeated Serbian aggression.

He stressed that this stance confirms the UAE support for right and justice, especially for Moslems all over the world.

During a round of talks with visiting Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, Shaykh Sultan Said his country will not hesitate to extend any humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian Moslems.

He urged the international community to stand by the just cause of Bosnian Moslems, who suffer from the most horrible types of oppression, persecution and ethnic cleansing.

He also urged the international community to lift the arms embargo on Bosnian Moslems to enable them to defend themselves against continuous Serb attacks.

Shaykh Sultan pointed to the call by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for the international community to put an end to the massacres committed against Bosnian Moslems, who only seek freedom and independence.

Austerity Policy To Offset Low Oil Prices

NC1109114494 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 11 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will tighten spending in 1995 in line with an austerity policy to cushion the impact of weak oil prices, officials said Sunday [11 September].

The finance and industry minister, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, also asked ministries and other federal departments to abandon unnecessary projects as no increase in revenues is projected next year.

Al Maktum, outlining budget measures for the coming fiscal year, said no allocations would be made for new projects by any ministry unless it has completed at least 80 percent of its present projects.

"We expect that federal revenues for fiscal year 1995 will be almost equivalent to those projected for 1994," he told the ministries in a letter published by the semi-official newspaper AL-ITTIHAD.

"We hope all ministries and government departments will exert more efforts to ensure a balance between expenditure and revenues.

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"This could be done through tightening spending and excluding unnecessary expenditure in a manner that will not affect performance at any government institution."

Al Maktum gave no budget figures for 1995 but federal revenues were projected at around 4.41 billion dollars in 1994. Spending was put at 4.79 billion dollars, creating a deficit of 380 million dollars.

The UAE federal budget is in theory financed by half the income of each of the country's seven emirates. But in practice, more than 80 percent of the contributions come from Abu Dhabi and the rest from Dubai.

The two emirates produce the bulk of the UAE's 2.16 million barrels per day of oil, which provides more than 90 percent of its total income.

The UAE budget started to suffer from shortfalls in the mid-1980s, when oil prices began to decline. This prompted it to introduce austerity measures but the gap persisted in most years because of high development spending.

Unlike in other Gulf states which issue bonds, the UAE deficit is tackled by additional contributions from Abu Dhabi or spending cuts through the year.

Such measures turned the 1993 deficit of 470 million dollars into an actual surplus of 14.38 million dollars at the end of the year. The 1992 shortfall of 381 million dollars also turned into a large surplus of 569 million dollars.

Apart from extra contributions and rationalisation of expenditure, the UAE has sought to boost non-oil revenues by increasing its federal investments abroad and introducing more fees on government services.

From less than 100 million dollars in 1980, non-oil earnings jumped to more than 800 million dollars in 1993, according to official figures.

Lower government spending in the UAE and other Gulf oil producers have sharply slowed down the economy as the private sector relied heavily on such expenditure given its relatively small role in development activity.

But most regional governments have announced plans to give the private sector a greater role as part of overall economic reforms.

"Allowing the private sector to play its real role will help ease the burden on the Gulf governments and consequently tackle the deficit problem," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

Most members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—were forced to slash expenditure in 1994 because of weak oil prices.

This cut the projected shortfall to a four-year low of around nine billion dollars compared with a record 58 billion dollars in 1991.

Yemen

President Salih Returns From Oman Visit

JN1309070094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, returned to the capital, Sanaa, at 1630 today after a visit of several hours to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, he met with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Said of Oman. Discussions dealt with relations between the two sisterly countries and ways of bolstering and promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal, neighboring peoples. Discussions also dealt with Arab issues and developments, top of which are the issues related to the brotherly relations among the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states and ways of enhancing regional security and stability, in addition to issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Salih on Internal Issues, Ties With Neighbors

NC1209174694 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 3, 14

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Ansari] Do the bloody confrontations that have taken place in Aden for two days in a row between some elements and security men prove the American warnings to you? Is it the start of internal violent operations by militias of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] operating within secret organizations?

[Salih] What happened in Aden was nothing more than harassment of the inhabitants by Islamic Jihad members. The Jihad members tried to strike at their beliefs and traditions by knocking down mausoleums and shrines of holy men. The security men intervened and arrested them. When some members returned the next day for the same purpose and used weapons, the state troops stood up to them very firmly and vigorously. In my judgment these were minor attempts that were doomed to fail and that I have not given much attention to. But you will be surprised if I tell you that the leaders of the legitimate "Islamic movement" called me yesterday evening and told me to "crush these renegades, who stir dissent, chaos, and instability, because they are apostates of Islam." As for your suggestion that they may be remnants of the military militias of the YSP in Aden, let me explain something to you. No one from that group could do anything. Do you think that anyone who could not put up any resistance while he had tanks, missiles, guns, bunkers, and fortifications and who fled leaving all these things behind would be able to stand up to a confrontation today using a rifle? Unfortunately, in all the civilized world countries armies are built for stability, peace, and reconstruction because war is a rare exception. But we in the Third World build our armies for destruction and war, as if war were an inevitable fate

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every day and every moment, if not against others then against ourselves in a civil war. Let me assure you that our policy in Yemen, both before and after our triumph for the sake of unity, was and remains to be peace, stability, and security for ourselves and others.

[Al-Ansari] Does this mean that the armed militias are finished or do they continue to operate in secret?

[Salih] Naturally, the YSP militiamen still exist, but we do not chase inactive people. If they try to engage in any armed demonstration we will confront them firmly and strongly according to the law and the Constitution. No militias, whether from the YSP or others, will be permitted to operate, because this is against the law and the Constitution. By nature, the Yemeni people are inclined to peace and stability. The elements of violence and riots are hired elements, some of whom engage in political extortion to serve certain interests. I assume that this relationship, which is based on money and extortion, has ended with the end of the others, who have fled the country following the failure of their conspiracy.

[Al-Ansari] Mr. President, Sanaa is rife with rumors that a conflict has broken out between your party, the General People's Congress [GPC], and the Islamic Yemeni Reform Group [YRG], and that the YRG members want to inherit the YSP as far as sharing power and positions are concerned.

[Salih] You must realize that we in the GPC are allied with the YRG. We have something in common, which is the "National Charter." We do not have political differences. What you have heard is nothing but malicious propaganda promoted by the fifth column of the YSP and other hostile forces. There will be no battle or confrontation between the GPC and the YRG. For us, the YRG is a strategic ally.

[Al-Ansari] But, Mr. President, the extremist elements in the YRG are pressuring to be given the bounty and to impose conditions, in addition to pushing the situation toward extremism and violence.

[Salih] There is no way to cover up that there are extremists in the YRG. There are also extremists in the GPC, and we even find them inside the small family.

[Al-Ansari] Mr. President, there might be an essential difference. The Muslim Brotherhood and [Islamic] group elements in the YRG went in the thousands to Afghanistan in the early eighties and organized themselves into groups and organizations. They then returned with their organizations, ideas, plans, and objectives.

[Salih] The information you have is not correct. I am in charge of the Yemeni house and know all its secrets. I know the number of those who went to Afghanistan. Only dozens went and not hundreds or thousands and they do not pose any danger. The problem is that a number of the YSP leaders, when they were in the party, worked to sow sedition between us and Egypt. Because Egypt was suffering from terrorism, they sent misleading information to it that there were camps in Yemen to train Egyptian and other extremists. The brothers in Egypt believed that the extremism in their country had extensions and links with the same elements here.

I tell you that they do not pose a danger to us. There are no training camps or shelters in Yemen for those who deal with violence in Egypt. On my part, I tell these extremists: "Desist from violence and replace it with dialogue" because this is the ideal and constructive way toward understanding and solving problems. I hope that the brothers in Egypt will be able to solve the problem with the extremists.

[Al-Ansari] How do you then explain this contradiction between the stance of the government and the GPC on relations with Saudi Arabia while the relations of the YRG and its leaders with that country are good?

[Salih] It is true that relations between the YRG and Saudi Arabia are strong, but they do not represent any contradiction as you mentioned. The point is that the YRG leaders believe that their good relations with Saudi Arabia will have positive effects beneficial to Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] What is happening in the relations between you and Saudi Arabia? Are there goodwill endeavors or mediations to repair them?

[Salih] There have been no mediations concerning the real crux of the problem. But there are contacts between the Yemeni and Saudi Governments through diplomatic channels, albeit not extensive ones. I tell you what I already said before, namely that we are ready to open a new page with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and are ready to close the files of the past, which involve a lot of "blame" on our part and theirs. We are ready to start a stage of brotherly relations, fraternal relations, on the basis of a number of principles.

[Al-Ansari] What do you mean by principles?

[Salih] The principles I mean are those of noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, that each party—Saudi Arabia and Yemen—abide by the agreements and charters concluded and signed by us, and that a spirit of trust and cooperation prevail instead of the misapprehension and mistrust.

[Al-Ansari] On the basis of this spirit, is it true that, to show your good intentions and to assure the brothers there, you have proposed the establishment of unity between the Saudi and Yemeni states with King Fahd as its king?

[Salih] We in Yemen are strong advocates of unity, even total Arab unity. But Arab unity will take a long time. We are happy that we have united Yemen. We believe in the Arab proverb that says that if you want to be obeyed, then order what is feasible. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] Why, in your view, did the United States support you while almost getting involved in a crisis with a friend and ally that was more useful and important to it, namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

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[Salih] The United States supported Yemeni unity before it supported us because unity was established on democratic bases and because Yemen declared in its political program for unity its commitment to democracy on the basis of party pluralism.

The United States supports the democratic course and has no choice but to back it in its capacity as the sponsor of democracy in the world.

[Al-Ansari] Was there a role for Yemeni oil and gas and the increasing U.S. investments in Yemen in this support?

[Salih] I believe that the base for the support was the sponsorship of democracy in Yemen and the example it set in the Arabian Peninsula. There are, additionally, joint Yemeni-U.S. oil interests since oil was discovered in Ma'rib in 1986.

U.S. policy, as expressed by President Bush, seeks to diversify the sources and outlets of oil so that the West will not be the hostage of one or several countries. Thus, there are joint interests. But it certainly is not as much as the interests it has with the Gulf states.

Therefore, democracy and pluralism remain the basis, in addition to Yemen's care for and interest in human rights. There is not a single political prisoner in Yemen, even though we were in a dangerous war. More than that, we released 1,000 political prisoners jailed by the YSP from Aden prison after we entered it. We also demolished the infamous "al-Fath" prison. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] What about the reports that Iraqi pilots and tank crews fought on your side during the war?

[Salih] This is not true and it is part of the rabid campaign waged against us. Those who fought the battles in the confrontation were Yemenis. You have the right to know that we have double the number of equipment we possess in trained men, pilots, tank crews, and so on.

[Al-Ansari] What about the arms deals that [former YSP leader 'Ali Salim] al-Bid concluded shortly before the war and part of which he received during the fighting?

[Salih] We are following up the implementation of these deals that the YSP concluded in the name of the Yemeni Republic with Russia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. We are asking them to deliver the rest. We have the texts of the contracts, the quantities already delivered, and lists of the rest. All these documents were left behind by al-Bid's men after fleeing.

We recently received one gigantic Ilyushin-L76 plane. We are waiting to receive the rest of the arms because the contracts are binding on the other parties, which were paid beforehand. The price paid was double and even quadruple the true value because of commissions and the haste to acquire them. [passage omitted]

Minister on Economic Reforms, Islamic Extremists

JN1009072394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 94 p 12

[Article by P.V. Vivekanand in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] Political stability and economic reforms are the main priorities of the government in post-civil war Yemen, now that it is no longer under the constraints imposed by southern socialists, and the country has every chance to develop itself if given the right ingredients, according to Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Dr. al-Iryani, widely seen as effectively number two in Yemen after President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih despite his formal status as only a cabinet member, is not downplaying the massive challenge facing the country after the devastating civil war. But he is a strong believer in the ability of Yemenis to meet the challenge and live up to the exigencies of changing a political and economic system that had been their nemesis for decades.

The soft-spoken Western educated Mr. al-Iryani is often described by diplomats as the Yemeni best suited to help this country overcome its problems, which range from tribal rivalry and religious extremism to an ineffective oil economy and political bickering that threatens further chaos as the country pursues a gradual political liberalisation.

Dr. al-Iryani, who had been repeatedly frustrated in his efforts to bring about economic reforms and improve the lot of the people in the most impoverished country in the Arabian Peninsula, is in the process of redrafting an economic programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and supported by the U.S., Japan and Germany.

With the implementation of the programme, the IMF and major donor countries would help Yemen address its nearly $7 billion in foreign debts, the bulk of it inherited from South Yemen when the North and South merged in 1990, Dr. al-Iryani said.

The main problem that he faced Dr. al-Iryani said in a wide-ranging interview with the JORDAN TIMES was the resistance of the former premier, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), whether in moves to better reflect the benefits of Yemen's oil in the country's economy or to streamline serious gaps in economic management in united Yemen.

As Dr. al-Iryani works out of his office in the hart of Sanaa looking at the economic options of the government, President Salih is busy negotiating with political parties on forming a new government to replace the cabinet headed by Mr. al-'Attas.

Mr. al-'Attas and most other prominent YSP leaders who proclaimed separation from the Republic of Yemen after a four-year unity have fled the country, leaving President Salih's General People's Congress and the Islamist al-Islah party as the main parties in the coalition.

The country is now headed by a caretaker government, pending the formation of a new cabinet by President Salih.

The consolidation of political stability and strengthening of political institutions and democracy would come through constitutional changes, Dr. al-Iryani said

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without elaboration. But diplomats said the changes are likely to include increased powers for the presidential and the dissolution of a five-members for the presidential council. [sentence as published]

While leaving the immediate political bargaining with parties of his president, Dr. al-Iryani, Sanaa's diplomatic anchorman during the May 4-July 7 civil war, said he was focusing on a series of economic reforms that would include the elimination of state food subsidies, the removal of the "fictitious" official exchange rate of the Yemeni riyal and an end to the "ridiculous" price of oil in the country.

"The role played by the development of oil in Yemen is limited to meeting the local demand," he said.

"A litre of gasoline is sold in Sanaa at a price cheaper than in Riyadh," said Dr. al-Iryani, "It is cheaper than water." A litre of gasoline costs six riyals (50 U.S. cents at the official exchange rate but less than six cents at the black market of 80 to 85 riyals to the dollar), while a small bottle of mineral water costs 15 riyals.

Although Yemen produces 350,000 barrels per day of oil, the country has never been able to reflect its oil output on socio-economic development, Dr. al-Iryani said.

The government share of the output under a production-sharing accord with the U.S. Hunt Oil is less than 50 per cent, of which local consumption accounts for more than 70,000 barrels, leaving the government with little in terms of oil export revenues, which are anyway consumed in food subsidies for the 14 million people.

The government is working on the fiscal budget—the first in three years since the government of united Yemen could agree on little—and this would include major economic moves such as reduction of food subsidies and a hike in local oil prices, Dr. al-Iryani said.

The new government, as and when formed, will also revive the economic programme agreed with the IMF. "Had it not been for the former YSP premier, we would have been eight months into the programme and on our way to economic reforms," Dr. al-Iryani told the JORDAN TIMES.

If anything, he said, the civil war brought in "tremendous new burdens" on the government and these would have to be taken into consideration in the programme.

Dr. al-Iryani expressed high optimism that the port of Aden, which came under the direct control of the Sanaa government only after the civil war and the ouster of the YSP, could "return to its glorious past" and resume its role as key link between Asia and Europe if the remnants of the YSP legacy—mainly port labour union troubles—are removed and a major liberalisation programme takes effect.

Provided that reforms are implemented in earnest, said Dr. al-Iryani, "I envisage Yemen no longer being at the receiving end of foreign assistance at the end of this decade."

On the political front, Dr. al-Iryani said, he believed that the presence of the Muslim Fundamentalist al-Islah in the coalition was an asset to Yemen rather than a negative factor in the country's image.

"Al-Islah, as represented in the coalition, is not a source of any concern for aid donors," he said. "The extremist elements outside, which, some suspect, may have a relationship with al-Islah, are indeed a source of concern."

Dr. al-Iryani's comment appeared to be a tacit GPC acceptance of al-Islah's contention that it had nothing to do with the sweep of Islamic extremism raging in the defeated southern parts of Yemen as well as the party's denial of any links with extremist groups elsewhere in the Middle East, including Egypt, Algeria and Sudan.

"The main leaders of al-Islah have always been expressing opposition to any extreme methods in expressing Islam," said Dr. al-Iryani. "Therefore, the presence of al-Islah in the coalition has contributed to creating a mainstream moderate Islamic movement that will be more and more refined in its modern outlook to the outside world, in relations between nations and economic systems...under conditions that are not rigid.

"The continuation of that situation will contribute to making al-Islah the mainstream Islamic movement in Yemen," he said, conceding that "extremists from both ends of the political spectrum do exist, but they are a minority."

Al-Islah Party Postpones General Congress

NC1209211294 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 12 (AFP)—Yemen's powerful Muslim fundamentalist party Al-Islah [Yemeni Reform Group] on Monday announced the last-minute postponement of its first general congress because of a key debate in parliament over Islamic law.

A spokesman said Tuesday's gathering had been postponed indefinitely because party general secretary Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar was busy with his duties as speaker of parliament, where the debate on constitutional changes began on Saturday.

Party spokesman Hammud Hashim Dharraji said a new date for the congress would be set after the debate.

Some 2,400 delegates were to have attended the three-day congress setting out Al-Islah's political direction and electing new structures, including a 100-strong central committee.

Al-Islah, strengthened by an alliance with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress (GPC), has set itself two goals—to spread Islam as wide as possible in Yemen and boost its role in the country's leadership.

Its political rise has come thanks to its unwavering support for Salih through months of tension with

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southern leaders from the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that erupted into civil war on May 5.

Only two months after the end of the war and the YSP's defeat, Al-Islah has already started to wield its new-found power in parliament, where it controls 62 out of 300 seats.

A draft project to revise the constitution, blocked by the socialists, is being debated and if agreed it could see Islamic law become Yemen's sole legislative basis, instead of one of its "main sources" of law.

YSP Factions Debate Party's Role

JN0909165194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Sanaa—Signs in Sanaa yesterday indicate some quarters in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and others close to the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping were not pleased by the convening of a meeting of YSP Central Committee members and the statement issued by that meeting.

These quarters seem to prefer that the YSP refrain from resuming its activities. The first quick reaction to the meeting, which elected a new Political Bureau, was a statement by several YSP leaders who described themselves as the legitimate leadership that was not involved in the war decision and the crime of secession.

The statement condemned the meeting as illegitimate. It said its resolutions represent only those who participated in the meeting.

The statement said these resolutions are part of the framework crimes and mistakes committed against the people and homeland by the secessionist YSP leadership, whether in the General Secretariat, Political Bureau, Central Committee, or the parliamentary bloc that was involved in the war and secession.

The statement, issued by a group calling itself the "unionist leaderships", rejected all the resolutions of this meeting. It said: These resolutions are within the framework of a new tactic. They are an exposed attempt to distribute roles between leaders who cannot deny their responsibility for joining the treacherous leaders in making the war decision, the declaration of secession, and the deterioration caused to the party and its reputation, history, and national role.

The statement said: The best evidence of this was that the leadership meeting in Sanaa did not dare fire or condemn any of the treacherous agent secessionist leaders who were paid for the war and secession and for the martyrs and destruction inflicted on the homeland. These leaders are living a prosperous life abroad, and close contacts are going on between these leaders and elements who continue to receive orders from them.

The statement said: These illegitimate leaders are currently intensifying their contacts with the extremist forces and organizations in the national arena, led by the extremist elements with the aim of attacking the victories realized by our people in defending their unity, existence, and future.

The statement added: These new tactics are exposed and will not deceive our people, the YSP leadership and members who will continue to adhere to unity and democracy. They will expel from their ranks these treacherous secessionist leaders who were led by their ambitions and selfish interests to destroy the homeland and unity, and to undermine the YSP history, which will continue to be loyal to the national cause and sincere in playing its role along with all honorable nationalist political forces.

The Sanaa meeting ended with the election of a new political bureau. The meeting issued a statement in the name of the "Central Committee in its expanded extraordinary session." The statement says in part: "The Central Committee discussed the catastrophe of the war that shook the country for more than two months, during which several economic and social installations were destroyed and thousands of people were killed. The war left thousands of mutilated people, widows, and orphans. Heavy losses were inflicted on the citizens' interests and their property, as well as on the national bonds among the sons of the one Yemeni homeland.

"The Central Committee views this national catastrophe as a failure of all political forces in the country, particularly the coalition parties. It believes resolving political differences through internecine fighting leads to despair. This conflicts with the interests of the homeland and the people. It leads the country to destruction and backwardness. It is high time all political forces seek to alter the political course of the country in order to avoid resolving political differences through war and force, and to replace them with the language of dialogue and political solutions.

"The Central Committee calls for ending the manifestations of war and violence in the country, and for reinforcing the security, stability, and tranquility of all citizens with the objective of creating the best atmosphere to reconstruct what was destroyed by the war.

"The Central Committee discussed the secessionist decision urged by some desperate party leaders who ignored the party's legitimate institutions. They damaged the party's ideology, documents, and history by encroaching on the most important objectives of the party throughout its long and arduous struggle. While denouncing this serious violation by some of the party leaders, the Central Committee views this action as an expression of shortsightedness. Instead of tackling all the homeland's issues and confronting the difficulties facing the people within the framework of a united state and in cooperation with all the political forces concerned about the country's development and progress, these leaders have adopted a secessionist stand that pushes the homeland toward whirlpools of splits and confrontations, facilitates the military solution of the country's problems and difficulties, and harms the homeland and the people.

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"The party calls on its friends and on loyalists to work persistently to redress the national concept of unity based on citizens' equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal interests without discrimination or preference, and to fight attempts to encroach on unity as a noble and great national concept."

The statement adds: The YSP's fourth general congress is an important station in its long struggle and a new starting point toward reinforcing the new policy of the party as a major force in the Yemeni arena, which devoted itself to struggling for the sake of unity and democracy, and modernizing Yemeni society by liberating it from the shackles of social and economic backwardness and establishing a new political system, modern state institutions, and civilized social institutions; reinforcing democracy and its rules which guarantee political pluralism, freedom of political and trade unionist action, and peaceful rotation of power; entrenching the concept of equality among citizens; and protecting human rights.

The Central Committee emphasizes the importance of the historic role of the YSP along with other political and social forces that believe unity, democracy, and modernization are public objectives that meet society's interests. On this basis, the next achievement in these objectives is linked to the ability of these forces to work out realistic programs and entrench awareness and organization within the general march of national progress in Yemen.

In addition to its organizational and political tasks related to reconstruction of the party and its establishments, the fourth general congress of the party is concerned with drawing up general policies and defining its position on the map of the national and social activities of the people. Therefore, The Central Committee approves the following:

A. Forming a preparatory committee whose task is to prepare for the convening of the fourth general congress of the party within no less than six months and no more than one year. The committee includes members of the Political Bureau, the secretariat of the Central Committee, and the first secretaries of the party's organizations in the governorates.

B. The preparatory committee will work out an organizational, political and media plan for the congress; all party establishments and members will take part in implementing this plan.

C. The preparatory committee is responsible for technical and administrative preparations to ensure the participation of elected delegates in the congress, and the venue and timing of the meeting.

D. The preparatory committee will complete preparations of the main documents of the congress in light of the discussions and remarks of the party's members and friends, and the comments of other parties, trade unions, and social and artistic societies.

E. In addition to the political program and by-laws documents, the party's Central Committee entrusts the preparatory committee with working out other documents evaluating the party's experience before and after unity, including the political and administrative conditions in the country before unity, the one-party system, the political conflicts which resulted in political forgery, as well as other issues related to relations between the state, the revolution, the army, and the party. The evaluation will also include tribal affiliations. These documents will review the ideological development of the party, foreign factors that influenced the party's struggle and the national march in the country, and the party's concept of reform and how to deal with corruption and its attempts in this field and problems that faced these attempts.

The Central Committee emphasizes that all these documents should discuss and assess the unity agreements, and why problems challenged their implementation, in addition to the phenomenon of political violence. The documents should also evaluate the experience of parliamentary elections after unity, and the problems faced by the political coalition and constitutional legitimacy as an integrated system.

YSP Party Removed From 'All Political Posts'

JN1109154794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Sanaa—Parliamentary sources in Sanaa yesterday said the Yemeni House of Representatives tomorrow will begin discussing the constitutional amendments previously approved by the coalition parties; namely, the General People's [GPC], the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. The Yemeni political crisis and war prevented the endorsement of these amendments.

These sources indicated that forming a new cabinet and approving the new form of the state presidency depend on these amendments. They explained that the House speakership under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, leader of the YRG, set 10 days to complete the discussion and endorsement of the constitutional amendments.

'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, member of the House speakership, said YSP elements were removed from all political posts in the country. He added: The constitutional amendments the parliament will begin debating tomorrow were already discussed by the tripartite coalition. This issue, however, was frozen as a result of the political crisis which began in August 1993 and lasted until February 1994 when the document of pledge and accord was signed in Amman as an alternative to these amendments.

Muqbil continued: After the Yemeni war and the defeat of the YSP, which was part of the coalition, and also after its leadership fled the country, the issue of constitutional amendments surfaced again. [passage omitted]

Muqbil, who was elected YSP secretary general last week to replace 'Ali Salim al-Bid, accused the GPC and the YRG of working to remove the YSP from the coalition since the war broke out in May. He said the YSP is no longer part of the coalition which stemmed from the 27

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April 1993 elections, except from a theoretical viewpoint. Practically, YSP elements were removed from all political posts, including section chiefs and even school principals. [passage omitted]

Muqbil added: We will join a new cabinet if it includes the effective political forces in the country. Otherwise, the YSP will join the national opposition. This is the practical translation of the decisions made at the YSP Central Committee's recent round of sessions.

In the first comment on the YSP leader's accusations that the GPC and the YRG are working to remove his party from the coalition, a responsible source in the GPC in Sanaa said: Among the main reasons why the YSP was removed from the coalition was the fact that it committed high treason, because it violated the constitution, committed the crime of fomenting war and secession, wreaked havoc in the homeland, and had links with foreign forces in order to plot against the homeland and its unity and stability. [passage omitted]

Former YSP Leader Notes Party 'Differences'

MM0909151094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 10

[Interview with Jarallah 'Umar, a former Yemeni Socialist Party leader, by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] How would you assess the reality resulting from the recent war in Yemen?

['Umar] I think it is too early to talk about a comprehensive assessment of the results of the war. Because the war ended only two months ago. So I believe that current results are the initial results. It is clear that one party or alliance (the General People's Congress and the Yemen Reform Grouping) has achieved victory, while the other party (the Yemeni Socialist Party) has been defeated in this war.

This is one of the very clear results. But in my view, this victory and this defeat have not ended the problem which caused the crisis. Because the political, social, and economic causes of Yemen's political problems and successive crises are still there. And efforts should be pooled to eliminate these causes so that we can be spared those successive crises, which keep Yemen out of the age in which it is living. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Let us move on to the new reality and threat of a split in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. How would you assess this threat, if you believe there is a threat?

['Umar] I hope that such a split will not happen. But of course, there are important issues and very big problems over which there can be differences. After all that has happened, it is natural for us to expect differing views. But the YSP can still be united with numerous and various tendencies. There can be numerous views inside the YSP, and differing views can become public. I believe that the real test for the party is its ability to tolerate democratic life inside and to accept the other view in an effective and serious manner. So there can be unity and differences at the same time. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] There are reports of nonorganized resistance movements as a result of the provocation represented in the presence of armed troops in some southern areas and the attacks on property. Some people fear that they might turn into an organized movement against what some people term northern occupation of the south. What is you opinion?

['Umar] Life in Yemen—south or north—must first be based on law and order. And there should be no military role in running people's affairs. It is very important to consolidate civilian life and return the armed forces to their camps, limiting their task to defense operations, leaving administrative matters to civilians and the police. This is required throughout Yemen as a whole, not just the south. Yemen must think about the future and keep away from war and its problems.

[Hammudah] So you do not expect organized resistance against what some people term "occupation?"

['Umar] I do not expect that to happen. Because the majority believes in Yemeni unity. However, the authorities should make efforts to serve citizens' interests and to persuade them that unity serves their interests. [passage omitted]

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'Aziz Confers With UN Security Council President

JN1209180894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 12 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today began consultations with the president and delegates to the UN Security Council in New York today.

This morning, 'Aziz met with the council's president for September, Spain's Ambassador Juan Yanez-Barnuevo. He is due to confer with a number of permanent and non-permanent Council members later.

The deputy prime minister told journalists after his talk with the council president it was premature to make any comments.

Meets UN Ambassadors

JN1309092594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 12 Sep (INA)—This morning, at his residence, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held separate meetings with the ambassadors of three permanent Security Council member states.

'Aziz met with Li Zhaoxing, PRC ambassador; Sir David Hannay, British ambassador, and Sergey Lavrov, the new Russian ambassador.

Tariq 'Aziz began his talks earlier today by meeting with Spain's Ambassador Juan Yanez-Barnuevo, this month's president of the Security Council.

Deserters, Antiregime Operations Reported

NC1209181494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Today's issue of KURDISTAN NWAY reports that two soldiers from al-Basrah serving with the regime's army arrived in the city of Kifri after deserting their camp in the village of (Tunjarban). They turned themselves in to the peshmarga troops.

Elsewhere, travelers arriving from Karkuk say that the deteriorating economic conditions experienced by the Iraqi people have forced the Iraqi people to accept menial and humiliating jobs and to do anything to secure their livelihood. These travelers have seen Army soldiers begging in marketplaces and low-income neighborhoods in the city wearing military uniforms.

Reports from reliable sources indicate that a popular uprising broke out in the al-Mu'allimin, al-Sina'ah, and Suq [word indistinct] areas of al-Nasiriyah city on 7 September. The sources added that the regime's troops engaged the city's inhabitants in a violent confrontation, leaving many martyred.

The fascist regime on 6 September arrested a group of jewelers in Baghdad for trading in dollars. [passage omitted] Their fate remains unknown.

The same sources added that opposition members threw a hand grenade at the ruling regime's headquarters in al-Thawrah city on the night of 7 September. Three comrades were killed and [words indistinct] was also killed. The same night the Muhammad al-Qasim police station was blown up. Some 30 party comrades who were holding a party meeting at the time of the attack were killed.

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Rabin on Syrian Peace, Nuclear-Free Mideast

NC1209121294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Sep 94 p 7

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Sana' al-Sa'id in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Last July you hastened to threaten Syria when you stressed your preparedness to wage war against it. How can you extend your hand in peace while stressing your preparedness for war, and how can you warn of changing priorities while allocating enormous sums to the Israeli Defense Forces to prepare for the possibility of war?

[Rabin] Our hands are extended in peace. We want peace for ourselves and all countries of the region. As for the talk of war, it expressed our concern that war might be break out as a result of a deadlock in the negotiations and the failure to reach peace with Syria. At a time when we were making peace with the Palestinians and Jordanians, there were still difficulties with Syria. That is why I said that if we fail to make peace with Syria the situation would eventually worsen.

[Al-Sa'id] But is this not still a threat of war?

[Rabin] No, not a threat. We are not concerned about a war with Syria. We are in control of the situation in the Golan; our military position there is good. The issue concerns how long we can keep the Golan without reaching peace. If we continue to keep the Golan what will Syria do? And what will the other countries in the Arab and Islamic world which have ties with Syria do? So I said that if peace is not reached with Syria in the years to come, it will not be possible not to take into consideration the possibility of war.

[Al-Sa'id] What Israel daily emphasizes is that the military establishment controls the political decision and therefore the decision on the Golan hinges on the Israeli Defense Forces, which will eventually decide the extent of the Golan's importance.

[Rabin] In the state of Israel the army does not control or dominate; it takes orders from the elected political officials.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that Rabin is more of a politician than a military man?

[Rabin] Now, yes. Don't forget that President Mubarak and President al-Asad were once military men, but now are politicians.

[Al-Sa'id] Despite the signing of the peace agreements, Israel is armed to the teeth and is being supplied with new types of weapons, the latest of which was the F-16 aircraft deal. These aircraft can strike targets from Pakistan to Morocco.

[Rabin] Egypt, with which we signed a peace agreement and with which we live in peace, is also developing and modernizing its army and seeks to possess the most modern arms. Does this mean that it wants to launch a war? Of course not.

[Al-Sa'id] Then this should apply to Syria and it should have the right to arm itself.

[Rabin] Yes, it has a right to do so.

[Al-Sa'id] When I asked Syrian politicians, they denied this point.

[Rabin] This is confirmed and fixed. We and the United States know this, as also does Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] Syria has confirmed its desire for peace. This was made clear during the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in January of this year.

[Rabin] The difference between al-Asad and al-Sadat is that al-Sadat came to Jerusalem and convinced the people in Israel that he wanted peace. He said that he would not play the role of postman to convey his desire for peace. Al-Asad's problem is to convince the Israeli people, not Clinton, that he wants peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Why don't you in your turn convince the Syrian public opinion that you want peace by withdrawing from the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] When al-Sadat came to Jerusalem, he did not ask Israel to withdraw from the Sinai before he came. He came to say that he wanted peace.

[Al-Sa'id] It is difficult to compare these cases. Each person has his own personality and way of thinking.

[Rabin] This is the problem.

[Al-Sa'id] President al-Asad cannot visit Israel because Syrian public opinion is not ready for such a step.

[Rabin] President al-Asad has a very strong personality. I know that he has great influence on Syrian public opinion. I am convinced that if he wants to, he has the ability to convince the Syrians that progress must be made toward peace.

[Al-Sa'id] What remains is that Israel must take the initiative in convincing the Syrian people of its desire for peace.

[Rabin] We have no objection to this. Let them allow me to travel to Damascus and address the Syrian people with the objective of convincing them that we want peace. I am ready to do this immediately.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is trying to get around the issue of borders by creating obstacles to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

[Rabin] We have said that for these steps to result in peace with Syria, they must lead to a comprehensive deal which includes four points. I am the first Israeli prime minister to declare his readiness to withdraw in the Golan Heights.

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[Al-Sa'id] You mean "from" the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] Not from the Golan Heights, but in the Golan Heights. The second issue is the schedule for withdrawal, which depends on how many years we need for the withdrawal. The third issue is to have full normalization of relations, as in the case of Egypt, after the first stage of withdrawal. And the fourth point is to specify security arrangements after we reach a peace agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] Arrangements for both sides?

[Rabin] Yes.

[Al-Sa'id] But what is the time span you are proposing for withdrawal now?

[Rabin] I do not wish to delve into the details now, but I remember that al-Sadat came to Israel in November, 1977. The Camp David Agreement was finalized in September 1978. Then there was the peace treaty in 1979. After that, we withdrew from al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad in February 1980. And then there was the normalization of relations; embassies were opened between the two countries and the borders were opened. The withdrawal was finalized in April, 1982, that is, two years and two months after normalization of relations.

[Al-Sa'id] The area of the Golan Heights is small, no more than 1,200 square kms; therefore, it years are not needed for a withdrawal.

[Rabin] The time needed for withdrawal will take the same form as in the withdrawal agreement with Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] The Egyptian example cannot be applied here. The area of Sinai is 61,000 square kms, while that of the Golan is 1,200 square kms. That is the difference between the two places.

[Rabin] Don't forget the 250-km-long inhabited border between Israel and Egypt. Furthermore, Sinai is a demilitarized zone and its vast area provides enough security for the borders. The area of the Golan Heights, however, is small, and it overlooks the settlements. If you visit the area you will understand what I mean. I was commander of the northern zone for three years. I will never forget how the Syrians used to fire at children schools and communal dining halls.

[Al-Sa'id] But this is past history.

[Rabin] True. But President al-Asad has not done one percent of what al-Sadat did to convince the Israeli people that he wants peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Would your policy be different had it not been for the United States?

[Rabin] Certainly not. I am confident that Israel would have dealt with the national interests issue as it is doing now. Needless to say, the U.S. aid makes things easier for us. This aid makes Israel more prosperous. The United States is giving us aid because it understands that Israel should be strong so that peace will be established. There are no guarantees or assurances that the Arab rulers will ratify peace with Israel if it is weak. We must not expect any Arab leader to abruptly develop an honest and sincere love of Israel.

U.S. aid has strengthened Israel's stance, and this has prompted the Arabs to recognize Israel's existence and to realize that it is better to make peace than war.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that the road to the United States should pass through Israel?

[Rabin] No. The road to the United States does not pass through Israel. This is evident in the fact that many countries—Saudi Arabia, for example—have very strong ties with the United States and these ties have continued for years despite the lack of peace with Israel. This confirms that the road to the United States does not pass through Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] No doubt the U.S. aid has helped you avoid the legitimate UN resolutions?

[Rabin] Which resolutions you are talking about?

[Al-Sa'id] Resolutions 242 and 383, for example, which have not been implemented.

[Rabin] Israel has accepted the two resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] But it has not implemented them.

[Rabin] Israel implemented the two resolutions with Egypt on the basis of peaceful negotiations and in accordance with the U.S. interpretation, which stipulates withdrawal from the territories, not withdrawal from "all" the territories.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you have any plans for the next elections?

[Rabin] No. Elections were held in June 1992, so the next elections will be held in 1996. I need this time—from now until 1996—for the sake of peace, the economy, and development. Perhaps my problem lies in the fact that the government depends on a majority in the Knesset. But in view of my current peace policy, the guaranteed majority at present is only one vote. This means that I am carrying out the peace process on the basis of this majority. It's extremely small, and this poses a problem. Nonetheless, I can stress that with this small majority we will continue our policy until the next elections in 1996.

[Al-Sa'id] There were reports recently that secret contacts have been held between Israel and Iraq. I would like to ask if this has any connection with the long-term strategic role that Iraq may play in confronting the Iranian threat through terrorism and nuclear ability?

[Rabin] There are no secret contacts between Israel and Iraq. There were attempts by Iraq through a third party in New York to sound out Israel's attitude.

[Al-Sa'id] Who was the third party?

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[Rabin] There is no reason to mention it. However, in response to your question I would like to say that we Israelis support the current U.S. policy of containing and reining in both Iran and Iraq.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you not feel that this policy of containment might lead to enhancing their cooperation against the region?

[Rabin] Again, I maintain that we support the U.S. policy of containing both countries. The reason is clear: Under the rule of Saddam Husayn, Iraq has been Israel's number one enemy. It triggered the Gulf crisis. We were fortunate that the international alliance dealt Iraq a strong and back-breaking blow. Iraq attacked Israel with Scud missiles, which we will never forget. As for Iran, it supports and backs radical Islam, which constitutes a strong wave that is currently overwhelming the Arab and Islamic worlds. To speak of Israel and what Iran is doing against us, Hizballah is operating from south Lebanon and Jihad and Hamas are operating among the Palestinians. All of them are linked to Iran. In the long run Iran will try to produce unconventional weapons and long-range surface-to-surface missiles that can reach Israel. Iran is an enemy and it hates Israel; and that is why I issued instructions against having talks with it.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the possibility of the two countries forming an alliance against the rest of the region?

[Rabin] This is inconceivable. There is a history of eight years of war between them. I do not believe that Iraq will change its views of Iran for the sake of Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent is Israel trying to stave off the Iranian danger by building up an arsenal of mass destruction weapons, particularly in view of reports that Israel plans to destroy Iran's nuclear plant?

[Rabin] We are not planning that. As far as I know, Iran does not possess a nuclear plant yet. Russia and the PRC are building two nuclear power plants in Iran. If these two plants are placed under international supervision, we hope that the Iranians will not use them for other than peaceful purposes. Generally speaking, it will be years before they can make use of these plants.

[Al-Sa'id] Returning to Iraq, could Israel, for humanitarian reasons, call for an end to the embargo on Iraq to alleviate the suffering of its people?

[Rabin] The resolution imposing sanctions on Iraq was issued by the Security Council. Israel is not a member of the Security Council. I know that some Arab states, such as Syria and Egypt, backed these sanctions at the time. Israel is just a spectator.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you wish to see the embargo lifted?

[Rabin] So long as the current Iraqi regime is in power, there is no faith that if the embargo is lifted it will not go back to the same old policies in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] When will Israel sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and accept inspection of its nuclear reactor?

[Rabin] Israel supports freeing the region of nuclear weapons, but we neither agree to nor believe in international supervision. We have seen that Iraq has not complied with the embargo or with supervision despite its signature on the treaty. Thus, what we are concentrating on and hoping for first is peace. Then we would call on all the region's countries to sign bilateral treaties with Israel stating that the Middle East is clear of nuclear weapons. This would be done in accordance with mutual bilateral control and there would be a supervision system between each two countries (Israel and Egypt; Israel and Syria, etc.) rather than international control. This would depend on all the region's countries signing this treaty. When Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa talked to me about this point I told him that this is not a bilateral issue between Egypt and Israel alone; it must be between Israel and the other countries too. Egypt cannot speak for other countries, such as Syria, Iraq, or Iran. As far as I know, these countries have not authorized Egypt to speak on their behalf.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is being criticized for its ferocious onslaught against Islam and for branding it as extremist.

[Rabin] I was talking about Khomeynism; I absolutely do not mean Islam. But it is said that this is the fundamentalist and terrorist Islam practiced by Hamas, Hizballah, Jihad, Sudan, and Algeria.

[Al-Sa'id] Can you call them terrorists without branding Islam as extremist?

[Rabin] I call this trend Khomeynism without Khomeyni; we do not attribute it to Islam.

Assesses Progress in Peace Process

AU1109200694 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0905 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hans-Joachim Wiese; place and date not given—recorded; Rabin's statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Wiese] Mr. Prime Minister, since the beginning of the Middle East peace process in Madrid on 30 October 1991 the political situation in the region has changed dramatically. On 13 September 1993, that is, a year ago the day after tomorrow, you shook hands with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Washington. By the way, it was quite obvious that you did not enjoy that. On 4 May 1994, you and 'Arafat signed the Gaza-Jericho Agreement in Cairo, that is, the autonomy agreement for the Palestinians. And on 25 July, Israel and Jordan officially put an end to the state of war between the two countries, which had lasted for 46 years. These are only the most important events. How do you assess progress in the Middle East peace process up to now?

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[Rabin] Well, as you mentioned, there is no doubt that the beginning of the peace process started at the Madrid peace conference. But when I took over as prime minister on 13 July 1992, I decided to change Israel's policy. That is to say, I realized that we had to make peace with our enemies. One need not make peace with friends. And sometimes one has to make peace not only with an enemy but with a bitter enemy. I started by sounding out the possibilities and I realized that the key to any real change lay either with the Palestinians or the Syrians. Lebanon is practically a Syrian protectorate. Jordan was unable to take the first step. After thorough consideration and long secret meetings with Palestinian representatives in Oslo, I came to be convinced that I would have to start with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians. The result was the signing of the Oslo Agreement in Washington and the exchange of notes of mutual recognition between Chairman 'Arafat and myself.

Then we began with the negotiations on implementing the first stage of the declaration of principle, which had been signed in Washington on 13 September 1993, that is, the agreement on Gaza-Jericho First. The negotiations took longer than expected, but I was striving with particular emphasis for an exact agreement so as not to let any misunderstandings arise. The declaration of principle contains general principles. In order to implement it on location, a far more detailed agreement was required.

[Wiese] Are you satisfied with the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement so far?

[Rabin] The implementation took two to three weeks, and I believe that, basically, it works—apart from the following problems. The first is that the so-called donor countries have promised the Palestinians about $.5 billion since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. However, no democratic country—neither the United States, nor Japan, nor Europe—is willing to release the money as long as the Palestinians have not found a reliable way to use it. For 10 months the donor countries, the World Bank, and the European Union Commission in Brussels tried, together with the Palestinians, to find such a reliable system. So far, they have not reached an agreement. This is not Israel's problem, but there is no doubt that it influences the mood, particularly in Gaza.

Jericho is only a small town with 18,000 inhabitants, but in Gaza there are 800,000 Palestinians who live in poverty, and they expect peace to bring social and economic development. There is no doubt that this is a major problem for the future.

[Wiese] At the moment Palestinian self-rule is in effect only in Gaza and in the area around Jericho. 'Arafat has established his office in Gaza City. Palestinians policemen have started their work. On the other hand, terrorists from Islamic fundamentalist organizations have repeatedly perpetrated attacks on Israeli citizens. How do you assess these events?

[Rabin] We expected the Palestinians to assume responsibility—at least in the areas that come under Palestinians authority, that is, Gaza and Jericho—for coming to terms with those forces that are publicly and politically opposing the agreement and try to undermine it with terrorist activities. I am speaking of such extremist, Islamic fundamentalist terrorist groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. We do not see any activities by the Palestinians authorities, which we would have expected from them.

Just recently two Israelis were killed by Hamas people in Ramallah. Unfortunately, our system was not efficient enough to prevent known suspects from coming to Israel and working there. Nevertheless, we forged ahead. We signed the agreement on the early transfer of power, by which education in the West Bank will be transferred to Palestinian schools. We have reached agreement in four other spheres, also—in the health sector, tourism, social affairs, and the tax system.

There are problems. There is light and shadow, but basically—if you do not dwell on the headlines you see today or tomorrow, if you look at things from a certain perspective—I believe that the agreement works.

[Wiese] Mr. Prime Minister, let us talk about the neighbor of Israel who seems to be causing the least problems for you—the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. About one-and-a-half months ago, on 25 July, you and King Husayn put an end to the state of war between your countries, which had existed since the founding of Israel in 1948. What kind of influence did the Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement have on the understanding that was reached between Israel and Jordan?

[Rabin] No doubt, it made it easier for me and King Husayn to sign the agreement called the Washington Declaration. The approval of this agreement is indeed incredible in Israel. A total of 74 of almost 120 Knesset deputies voted for the Camp David Agreement, for instance. In contrast, the Washington Declaration was supported by 91 of 96 members of the Knesset who attended the meeting.

[Wiese] When will a peace treaty be signed between Israel and Jordan?

[Rabin] I believe that we have made major and significant steps toward peace. We still do not have a peace treaty, neither with the Palestinians nor with the Jordanians. But I believe the general mood in this region has changed dramatically. Even more, all the world, in particular the Arab countries who are not directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Islamic countries in Asia and in the Far East, are currently opening up to Israel.

[Wiese] Israel's probably most difficult neighbor, which, due it its military power, certainly plays a decisive role in the peace process, is Syria. During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel conquered the Syrian Golan Heights—

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incidentally, under your leadership as chief of general staff of the Israeli Army. In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan. In the eyes of Syrian President Hafiz al-'Asad, a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is the precondition for a peace treaty. In other words: peace for land. Will you agree to that?

[Rabin] We persevere also with the Syrians. There is no doubt that, apart from Egypt, Syria is the most important factor in strategic and military terms. Our position is as follows: We negotiate with Syria on a peace treaty. This peace treaty consists of four elements. Usually, I describe it as a table with four legs. Without the four legs the table would not stand securely. The first leg: Basically, we agree to a withdrawal. The extent to which we will withdraw depends on a timetable. As regards the extent to which we will agree, we have not promised the Syrians a complete withdrawal. Therefore, first, there is the question of how far we will withdraw and, second, the question of the timeframe. Third, we need years for the withdrawal, and after the first stage, which is limited in terms of area, we want a normalization of relations, comparable to that with Egypt, regardless of how far we withdraw once an agreement is reached. Fourth, there are security considerations. We do not have the Sinai, which is 250 km wide and separates Israel from Egypt to the west of the Nile. Therefore, Israel is far more in danger regarding security in connection with Syria. Thus, unless we have a package deal that includes these four elements—the four legs of the table—the table will not stand.

[Wiese] Syria is not necessarily considered a human rights haven. Syria is thought to be the base for many terrorist organizations. How do you feel about holding peace negotiations with such a partner?

[Rabin] In the Arab countries or among the Palestinians, there is not the kind of democracy that exists in Israel, or Europe, or the United States. There are totalitarian regimes, like in Syria, and authoritarian regimes, like in Egypt or Jordan. Before the beginning of the peace process we had to come to a decision: Do we want to trust authoritarian or totalitarian regimes as partners for peace? Or do we want to wait until democratic conditions have developed in the Arab countries? All Israeli governments have decided not to wait until real democracy has gained ground in the Arab countries that are our partners in the peace negotiations. If we had decided differently, we would have to wait 50 or 100 years at best. Therefore, all Israeli governments have said: We will negotiate with the Arab states about peace, even though we realize that they do not have a Western democratic system. However, we must not forget, either, that we must therefore have security guarantees for Israel in any agreement in which we return territory for peace, either entirely or partly.

[Wiese] According to Israeli press reports, the Syrian Government offered a peace treaty to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights within two years. Israeli television recently reported that Israel is willing to withdraw within four years. You yourself spoke of a three-year test period on Israeli Army Radio. What are Israel's real plans?

[Rabin] I do not believe that one can set down a timetable. I believe that what we have to do is do our best. I have tried to change the format of the Madrid peace conference. The system of bringing together all four Arab partners—Jordanians, Syrians, Palestinians, and Lebanese—at the same time and for the same period in Washington only led to what would have happened at any international peace conference in the Middle East. Everyone had to adapt to the participant with the most extreme positions.

As a result of secret talks with the Palestinians, we separated negotiations with them from those in Washington and transferred them to other places. We adhered and still adhere to the framework of the Madrid peace conference, which is the basis for the negotiations. However, we talk with each partner on a bilateral level and in harmony with the negotiations schedule.

The talks with Jordan took place in the same way that activity began after my secret meeting with the king in London on 19 May. I believe that without quiet meetings at a relatively high level it is difficult to come to an agreement.

[Wiese] Are there such talks with Syria?

[Rabin] At present the Syrians refuse to have such a meeting. As a result, we prefer the good services of the United States, and we welcome the mission of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. We believe that, with the help of the United States, we will hopefully be able to find some basis that permits us to meet secretly or openly. However, bilateral secret preparations would be best. Any meetings that take place in the limelight or in front of the media's microphones do not help.

[Wiese] How true are reports that Iraq has offered peace to Israel? Are there any contacts between Israel and Iraq?

[Rabin] Well, I have not authorized any such meeting. Our policy is clear: Iraq is under sanctions. Iraq under Saddam Husayn wanted to become the main power and in its eyes Israel is the main enemy of the Arab Islamic world. Therefore, we support the U.S. policy of dual containment, namely of Iraq and of Iran, which, for different reasons, we see as the two countries that have brought uncertainty to the region and will continue to do so.

First of all Iran: Iran is the source of a dirty wave of extremist, Islamic fundamentalist terrorist movements in all Arab countries and the Islamic world, whose basic philosophy—both in religious and in political terms—is aimed at the actual existence of the State of Israel.

The Palestinians among them reject the agreement with the PLO. They are trying to undermine it with terrorist

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attacks against Israel. They are linked with the Hizbollah in Lebanon, which still carries out terrorist attacks against us. They are trying to destroy any moderate Arab regime that considers negotiations with Israel or concludes agreements with Israel.

We see this wave of extreme Islamism as a danger to moderate Arab regimes and to peace and stability in the region.

[Wiese] Recently, PLO Foreign Minister Qaddumi publicly called for the destruction of the State of Israel. In addition, he said that those sections of the Palestinians National Charter that demand the destruction of Israel will not be nullified unless Israel recognizes an independent state of Palestine.

[Rabin] Well, in the exchange of letters between Chairman 'Arafat and myself he declared that all sections of the Palestinian National Charter aimed against the existence of Israel are null and void. He committed himself to convening the Palestinian National Council in order to amend the Palestinian National Charter. It is true that no date was set for that in our exchange of letters. However, at no point were there any conditions linked with this that would go beyond what was contained in Chairman 'Arafat's letter.

Therefore, I see Mr. Qaddumi's statement as a violation of the commitment that Mr. 'Arafat has made to me. I do not want to say when, but we will have to discuss the matter with the PLO and with Chairman 'Arafat, and we will have to tell him: Mr. Chairman, you have made a commitment and you must see it through.

[Wiese] Mr. Prime Minister, the situation in Gaza is disastrous. You briefly mentioned it before. In order to prevent further support for the Islamic fundamentalists, this situation must be improved quickly. How can this be done, in your view?

[Rabin] I will not deny your description of the situation in Gaza. There is high unemployment, there are many difficulties and problems. It is a fact that $.5 billion have so far not benefited any projects in Gaza and in Jericho, neither housing construction, nor industrialization, nor agricultural projects. As I said before, so far the obstacle has been the Palestinians' lack of readiness in directing the money of donor countries into predictable and reliable channels. This is not Israel's problem. We have nothing to do with that. In our talks we are trying to make it clear to Chairman 'Arafat that we get our support in this way and that Egypt gets its support in this way. Any country in the world that gets financial aid must be predictable and reliable. The PLO has no experience of such things, and this is the biggest problem. Therefore, the problem rests with Chairman 'Arafat. He can solve it. He could have solved it eight months ago, not just today, by reaching an agreement with the donor countries to get the money and really start to change the situation in Gaza. We are ready to assist, but it is up to the Palestinians to decide.

[Wiese] A last question, Mr. Prime Minister. Only recently did Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres visit Bonn. How do you assess German involvement in the Middle East peace process? What can Germany do to support the peace process?

[Rabin] Germany can contribute, I hope, to the regional projects. If regional development projects are added to the political element, that is, to the peace negotiations between us and our Arab partners, and if the good intentions behind that become obvious to the peoples in the region, then they can change the entire situation in the region. There are enough tasks. Money is available. What prevents this is the lack of progress in the peace process.

Says Gaps 'Still Wide' With Syria

TA1209123894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Labor faction members that some progress has been made in contacts with Syria, but there are still wide gaps, especially on the issue of the withdrawal line. The prime minister emphasized that Israel proposed a minimal withdrawal in the first stage, which will last three years, during which the negotiations will continue and bilateral relations will be normalized. [passage omitted]

Gives Jerusalem Top Priority

TA1209160794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that topping his list of political priorities is the unity of Jerusalem, which is worth 10 Golan Heights. The second priority is to safeguard areas of Judaea and Samaria from a defense perspective, because we must always be concerned about our eastern front, while the Golan Heights takes last place. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his remarks to Labor's Knesset faction, Mr. Rabin noted that whoever says there can be peace while keeping the Golan Heights is uttering a huge lie, and Labor will not learn from the Likud about such matters.

Rabin said terminating the talks with Syria means transferring budgets from social welfare to defense. The prime minister believes the Golan settlers' struggle is legitimate, and our correspondent notes that Mr. Rabin is due to confer with their representatives within several days. In reference to the proposal that a special majority be required in the referendum on a Golan withdrawal, the prime minister said this is a racist suggestion aimed at excluding Israeli Arabs.

In the discussion, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that whoever does not come down from the Golan Heights is giving up on peace. He fears that if there is no peace with Syria, Damascus will look for an alternative and will join up with Iraq and perhaps also with Iran.

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Comments on Syrian Track, Terror

TA1309062294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rabin says Israel has a great opportunity to achieve peace with security. The prime minister was speaking on a special satellite hookup with U.S. President Bill Clinton that was telecast to 70 Jewish communities in the United States. Rabin said he saw signs of a slight improvement in Syria's public diplomacy:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The speech of President al-Asad before the Syrian parliament—in the past we used always not to refer what Arab leaders, ministers, are speaking abroad, but what they did say, what they do say, in Arabic to their own people—and President al-Asad spoke about the strategy of peace and accepting the objective conditions of peace, he didn't say normalization. No doubt, these three events and al-Shar's statement in London is a slight change in their public diplomacy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

While answering questions during the satellite hookup with U.S. President Clinton, Rabin again said that if the Palestinian Authority does not do its utmost to prevent terror attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Israel will have to review how it will continue to implement the Declaration of Principles signed with the PLO one year ago. With more on the Rabin-Clinton conversation, reporter Connie Lonn:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] A very important event took place for the American Jewish community and for Israel. President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin addressed 70 Jewish communities throughout the United States in a special tele-conference. The parties pledged to repeat the event next year during the High Holidays. Prime Minister Rabin said there has been some slight progress with Syria, and that was alluded to during Hafiz al-Asad's speech over the weekend. But the prime minister had an ominous warning to the world about extremist terrorism. He said the ugly wave of Islamic fundamentalist terrorism is a threat to all Jews and moderate Arabs:

[Rabin] They are the enemy of moderate Arab regimes. They fight the regime of President Mubarak—they will not succeed. They endanger the situation in Algeria; they took over Sudan; they are in the threat of taking Lebanon; they are confronting the PLO against the agreement; and behind them there is an Islamic country, Iran, that in addition tries to develop in the coming seven to 15 years nuclear weapons and ground-to-ground missiles that can reach every part of the Middle East. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Personally Handling' Syria Talks

TA1309122594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Sep 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is personally handling the peace negotiations with Syria via the talks which the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington, Walid al-Mua'llim and Itamar Rabinovich, are conducting with U.S. mediation. These contacts have been accelerated in recent weeks to promote the negotiations between Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle missions. The State Department reported yesterday that Christopher would apparently arrive in the region in October.

Major General Uri Sagi, the head of the Intelligence Branch, is also involved in handling the negotiations and is updated on every detail. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was briefed by Rabin on the contacts between Rabinovich and al-Mua'llim, but has not been updated on the details of the negotiations in Washington. Rabin is receiving these reports through a special channel and not via the Foreign Ministry's cable system.

In an assessment paper Rabinovich sent to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, he noted the "positive tone" of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's speech to parliament, but asserted that "the speech was not designed to constitute another stage in public diplomacy."

Rabinovich pointed out that al-Asad stressed the Syrian-Lebanese interest and his speech was designed to prepare the Syrian public for an arrangement focused on Syrian and Lebanese interests. Al- Asad told the Syrian public that the negotiations with Israel would continue with U.S. mediation and that a certain degree of progress had been made.

In Rabinovich's assessment, al-Asad addressed the "objective demands of peace" in order to differentiate between the full peace Syria was prepared to reach and the demands issued by the United States to Syria as a precondition for improved relations. Al-Asad also rejected Israel's demand for rapid normalization since Syria regards normalization as one of the fruits of peace and not as a stage in its achievement. [passage omitted]

Opposes Law on Golan Withdrawal

TA1209121394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says if the Knesset passes a law requiring a majority of 70 for any substantial withdrawal on the Golan Heights, this would torpedo the peace negotiations with the Syrians. Rabin was speaking to the Labor Party Knesset caucus. Six of the Labor Knesset members who said they would support the proposal have backed down, but Avigdor Qahalani, the sponsor of the bill, has not yet spoken.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 12 September includes a report on the Labor faction session by Tamara Salem, which adds the following: "The prime

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minister reiterated his position that a significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights would require a referendum, but since at the present time we are not talking about such a significant withdrawal, rather about a minimal first-stage withdrawal, there is no point in submitting draft bills that would only tie the government's hands and torpedo the continuation of the process." The report adds: "The faction meeting ended a short time ago without adopting any decisions and with the desire to avoid unnecessary confrontation."]

Qatzav: Likud Will Not Honor Commitments to Syria

TA1109195894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Interview with Likud Knesset faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav by anchor Hayim Yavin in the studio—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Good evening to Likud Knesset faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav.

[Qatzav] Good evening.

[Yavin] What steps is the Likud planning in light of the gradually forming agreement with Syria?

[Qatzav] It is clear to everyone that the government is pursuing a policy that has not received the people's approval. The coming elections will be fought over a series of questions such as whether a Palestinian state will be established in Judaea and Samaria, whether Israel retains sovereignty over a united Jerusalem, and whether Israel will withdraw from the Golan Heights. All these questions must be answered by the voter in the next elections, with Labor representing support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, the division of Jerusalem, and withdrawal from the Golan Heights on one hand, and the Likud opposing all these positions on the other.

[Yavin] Mr. Qatzav, we are aware of all this, but what happens if a decision is made before the next elections?

[Qatzav] I hope that the prime minister will keep his word this time. He made a commitment and promised us that he would not make a commitment to the Syrians to withdraw from the Golan Heights before bringing the issue to the people. If the people do not decide on this matter, then we shall be absolved from the need to implement it. If the people decide to place their trust in the Likud, then the Syrian president should know that the Likud is opposed to withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and we hope that we will be able to build our entire election campaign around this issue.

[Yavin] Will you refuse to honor such an agreement, even if it legally musters a Knesset majority?

[Qatzav] Just as I said, the prime minister must refrain from making any commitments to the Syrians regarding a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He promised to bring the issue before the people. If there is no popular decision and the prime minister makes any commitments to the Syrian president, then we will be absolved from having to implement them if we win the elections. If the issue is brought before the people, we are sure that the Israeli public will decide against any withdrawal from or on the Golan Heights. In that case, we will definitely be free of any obligation. Thus, the issue under contention in the coming elections will not be yes or no to an agreement with Syria, because Yitzhaq Rabin promised that no such decision would be made before elections are held, and I hope he will uphold his commitment. The question is whether Israel will carry out a withdrawal on the Golan Heights. The people will have to decide between these two positions.

[Yavin] So you will not honor this agreement unless a national referendum is held?

[Qatzav] If there is no national referendum and the public is not the one to decide, we will not honor the commitments made by this government. Yitzhaq Rabin promised the whole world that he would not sign an agreement with the Syrian Government without bringing the matter before the people. As far as we are concerned, this commitment takes precedence over any agreement or commitment to the Syrian president.

[Yavin] Thank you, Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav.

Savir on Peace, Relations With Syria, Jordan

BR1309112094 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Sep 94 p 8

[Report on interview with Uri Savir, chief Israeli negotiator of the Oslo Agreements, by Mouna Naim in Paris; date not given: "Uri Savir: 'Israel Is Now a More Optimistic and Confident Country'"]

[Text] It was amid the euphoria (of 13 September 1993 - LE MONDE editor's note) that we were realistic. It was then that we understood the profound change and not now (that we are going into—LE MONDE editor's note) the details." On a brief visit to Paris at the end of last week for a meeting of the countries supplying aid to the Palestinians, Uri Savir, the chief Israeli negotiator of the 13 September 1993 Declaration of Principles, expressed regret that the world has forgotten the magnitude of the event which took place a year ago. He thinks this is as inconceivable as the event itself: "the mutual recognition of two national movements, that of the State of Israel and the PLO, which is also a flag even if it is not immediately or even necessarily a state."

Mr. Savir is undoubtedly right if you think of the nature of the conflict between Israel and the PLO before the signing of the agreement. The "details" are nonetheless important to the extent that they must translate into reality the major change of direction made on paper.

Uri Savir, the first official representative of the Israeli state to secretly establish contact with the PLO delegates in Oslo in May 1993 (Footnote) (For the whole story of

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the Oslo negotiations, see the well-researched book by Jane Corbin "The Norway Channel, The Secret Talks that Led to the Middle East Peace Accord" published by Atlantic Monthly Press, New York), reaffirmed that at the end of the 1967 Israeli-Arab war "the Israelis dominated the Palestinian people, and that went against their values as Israelis and as Jews." He therefore expressed his joy at finally seeing "Gaza run by its inhabitants and the Palestinians taking charge of education both in that territory and on the West Bank." If the Israelis and Palestinians, like the rest of the world, cannot really see any progress now, it is, he thinks, because "we are like passengers on a plane who have the impression that they are not moving, whereas they are in fact going forward."

It is true that for Israel, the process has so far been profitable. Uri Savir pointed out that there has been "spectacular" progress "with Jordan"—with which the Israeli state signed an agreement on 25 July ending the state of hostility. He revealed that "Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations will start in October on economic questions" and already sees "the seeds of a tripartite economic confederation."

Our interlocutor also welcomed the fact that the Arab world has "moved from a military strategy to one of economic cooperation" with his country. Morocco has already opened a "liaison office" in Tel Aviv. He spoke of a "veritable revolution in the international relations" of the Israeli state which now has official relations with 146 countries, in other words around 30 more than a year ago, not to mention the virtual ostracism of Israel until 1988. The improvement is not just quantitative but qualitative, he explained, pointing out that Israeli exports increased by 20 percent in a year with the East European and Asian countries.

For all these reasons and despite the failures of the current process, "Israel is now," in his opinion, "a more optimistic and confident country." "The Israelis have always been proud of their success despite a feeling of being surrounded. Today their pride is confirmed by the start of openness," he added. And while the latest opinion polls reveal that 85 percent of them "are optimistic about the coming year," this is almost miraculous to him, because "it virtually affects our national character."

'A Critical Year' Ahead

However, not everything is yet going as well as it could. "We are entering a critical year which should enable us to finish establishing the foundations of peace in the Near East," Mr. Savir said. The negotiations with Syria and Lebanon are marking time. Israel regularly demands—as Mr. Savir stresses—the opening of "direct, effective, and discreet negotiations" with Damascus. So far the Syrian authorities have just as regularly refused. Signals from the Syrian capital are encouraging, he said, but these "indications" and the American mediation, "however praiseworthy it might be," are not enough. "A great deal of patience is required with (Syrian President Hafiz—LE MONDE editor's note) al-Asad," he merely said.

This is also what he said about Lebanon: The southern part of this country must come "under the control of the central government and the Lebanese Army without the presence of Hizballah" which is pro-Iranian. But the Lebanese still say that the Israeli Army must first withdraw so that Lebanon can organize itself on its own territory as it wishes. However, the Lebanese know better than anybody that their country is one of the cards in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Savir stressed that, aside from these questions, the real foundations of regional cooperation in the economic, environmental, and water distribution spheres still have to be established. And he pointed out that "major problems also remain on the periphery of the region, presented by Iraq and Iran, the fundamentalist threat, and terrorism."

"Only we (all the parties concerned—LE MONDE editor's note) can make the process irreversible," Mr. Savir said. "And we can do so by continuing along the same path."

IDF Intelligence Chief Views Syrian Track, Iran

TA1209082494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, says peace with Syria is still far off, although he sees some positive trends in the peace process. At the same time Maj. Gen. Sagi warns about complacency. Referring to al-Asad's speech on Saturday [10 September], Sagi said it gives room for the assessment that Syria will do everything possible to exhaust the political process. This does not mean, however, that it has completely abandoned other options in case the political process collapses. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe brings excerpts of Sagi's comments, made on an interview with Qol Yisra'el's Arabic service:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Maj. Gen. Sagi says that to the uninformed observer al-Asad's speech would seem to include new elements. Those who regularly follow al-Asad, however find in the speech confirmation of the assessment that Syria will do everything to exhaust the political process.

[Sagi] This does not mean that Syria has completely abandoned other options in case the political process collapses, but at this point I believe al-Asad has made what he calls a strategic decision in favor of the political process. He understands the meaning of peace on the one hand and his demand to receive the Golan Heights on the other. He understands that he will have to pay in the coin of peace and normalization, and that great attention will have to be given to the necessary security arrangements in order for him to fulfill his desire to obtain the Golan Heights. This dialogue naturally has two sides. I

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will not discuss the Israeli side. Referring to the Syrian side, I think al-Asad's public and novel speech—novel in terms of the forum in which he chose to present it—which was also marked with a conciliatory tone, largely confirms the path al-Asad has chosen to take for the time being.

[Menashe] The differences of opinion between Israel and Syria are profound, but the two sides are looking for every political way to bridge the gaps:

[Sagi] President al-Asad, as usual, wants to attain his final objective as early in the process as possible. His position is clear, and I believe he is familiar with the Israeli position. It is necessary to bridge a very wide psychological gap to build confidence between Israel and Syria in order to achieve progress on this track. I must say, however, that despite these differences of opinion it is still too early to dismiss the possibility of a political option between Syria and Israel. The two countries—especially Syria—understand what they have to do in order to reach negotiations, and eventually to reach a political arrangement. I therefore believe that we may attain progress in the near future if both Israel and Syria reach the conclusion they have no alternatives.

[Menashe] The head of the IDF Intelligence Branch warns of complacency, emphasizing we are still a long way off from peace, albeit he does identify a positive trend in the political process as expressed by the Arab states' attempts to reach political arrangements which would serve both our and their own interests.

[Sagi] I also want to warn of complacency, because parallel to the peace process—and some would argue that this does not contradict this process—some of the Arab countries are impressively strengthening. The leading country, and also the strongest from our viewpoint, is Syria. Despite my belief that it is striving to score progress on the political track, during the last three years the Syrian Army has been greatly strengthened. It has acquired long-range Scud-C missiles, an impressive amount of armor and artillery, and they are not done yet. Syria believes this does not contradict the political process. I think Syria believes it must remain a very powerful country, because if and when the political process collapses it must preserve its powerful status in the Middle East. At this stage I cannot say that the military option—whether that of Arab countries or Persian Gulf countries—has vanished, and I recommend that Israel preserve and cultivate an extremely strong Army in order to guarantee the implementation and strengthening of the political arrangements which will be achieved. If, God forbid, these arrangements collapse, Israel must not find itself in a position of military inferiority.

[Menashe] Referring to Iran, Maj. Gen. Sagi says Iran regards Israel as an enemy that must be eliminated. We are dealing here with a potential danger which could become stronger in future. According to Sagi, Iran, as the leader of an extremist Muslim movement, is trying to undermine the stability of Arab regimes, and could threaten the general stability of the Middle East. Sagi said he identifies a common interest between Arab regimes and Israel in confronting the phenomenon of Iranian-led extremist Islamic elements, and in dealing with the nuclear ambitions of Iran, which could endanger Middle East peace and stability. [end recording]

Peres on Golan Bill, Haiti, Oslo Trip

TA1009161694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Adi Talmor; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What do you think about the initiative by Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani and his group to make a withdrawal on the Golan conditional on a special Knesset majority or a referendum, which, according to last night's Israel Television report, Minister Shim'on Shetrit was also involved in?

[Peres] I think this is a parliamentary outrage and a political mistake. Simply speaking, how could it be that 60, 61 MK's wake up one morning and decide that they are worth 70 or 75 MK's? How did they reach this conclusion? How can they decide to take from a minority 15 additional MK votes? [sentence as heard] Who are they, anyway? This is totally unacceptable, and it makes a laughing stock of the entire democratic system.

From a factual point of view, I have the highest regard for MK Qahalani. He is a good friend of mine, but he has to decide whether he wants peace or not. We cannot live in a dream. Of course, we could waste another 10 or 20 years without peace. Indeed, Refa'el Eytan has said: What is the rush? We suffer no fatalities. Well, if the yardstick is fatalities, we have a problem with Lebanon—not directly with Syria, but with its rule there. Last year, we lost 14 soldiers in Lebanon. The north is under a constant threat of renewed shelling. Syria is also procuring arms. What do they mean? Should we start thinking only after we are fired at? May we not think on how to prevent fire, how to reach peace? What kind of logic is this, anyway? If each of my good friends, or our political rivals for that matter, sincerely considered whether we could reach peace without a territorial redivision between us and the Syrians, if they are truthful, they would say it is impossible.

[Talmor] Speaking of Lebanon and the grave casualties our soldiers suffer there, do you not think that the understandings made in the wake of Operation Accountability, in fact, prevent the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from carrying out a significant operation against the terrorists there and that maybe they should be changed?

[Peres] Look, I do not believe that you can change political situations with guns, you can only create political situations. We have already gone deep into Lebanese territory, beyond Beirut; we have cleared all the terrorist

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nests; we have collected all the weapons; we have said that the land will be quiet for 40 years—and here we are again. We cannot always follow the path of narrow-mindedness. There are real problems that cannot be solved with only guns and cannons. We must, if we want to attain peace, use means pertaining to the roots of the problem, the roots of warfare and hatred.

[Talmor] So, you are saying that until we reach an agreement with Lebanon, if at all, we will continue losing soldiers there?

[Peres] Look, we are conducting negotiations because we have tried war, punitive measures, and restricted operations which have always taken us all the way back to square one. What good did this do? If we want a true and thorough solution, we indeed must make peace with Syria and Jordan [as heard], the inseparable two.

[Talmor] I would like to ask you about Haiti. What would be the nature of the Israeli involvement in the U.S. invasion of Haiti which, according to recent report, is drawing near?

[Peres] An IDF involvement has not been requested, not even by the Americans. The U.S. request is for police involvement in one of three instances: if the regime falls and the Haitian Police requires professional advise; and if following clashes there would be a need to introduce order [no third instance as heard]. In all of the above instances we were asked to provide policing advise, not military involvement.

[Talmor] Do you mean only a few experts or real involvement in which IDF soldiers would be policemen on the streets of Haiti?

[Peres] Not at all. No IDF soldiers will tour the streets there. There is no need to exaggerate all the time. This is about a small number of well-trained policemen who would be able to give advise to the local police. They will not perform policing duties themselves. The Americans have slated 50 men for the police task. With all the similarity between us and America, we still need to keep a sense of proportion.

[Talmor] One more question, with your permission, Sir. Next Tuesday you will meet Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo at a festive ceremony. Will you hold a working session with him?

[Peres] This trip was not on my agenda before yesterday. I am really traveling there upon the request of the Norwegians, who invited the prime minister and me. We decided that we cannot both go at the same time. I am going to express our people's gratitude to the Norwegians, and 'Arafat will naturally be there too. Yet, in view of what took place in Paris yesterday—and I am yet to receive the full report on what happened there—there may be a need for us to hold a working session.

[Talmor] Do you mean the aid to Gaza?

[Peres] Absolutely. Again, on this issue as well, baseless criticism is heard here, asking why we are helping Gaza, and why do we collect funds for Gaza. We must understand: A Gaza that is unemployed, hungry, overcrowded, and bitter would be a source of attacks against Israel. If there is work, industry, and hope there, Gaza would be better for Israel's security. This is why helping the Gaza residents and the Palestinian Authority to create a new and different economic situation in Gaza would make a direct contribution to calming things down there and, as a result, to the security of all the parties. Again, it is impossible to introduce security, order, and calm with weapons only. This is a very stupid idea. We need arms, but we also need other means.

Shetrit Said To Help Draft Bill on Golan

TA0909194894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Studio report by Menashe Raz]

[Text] In a special Knesset session next week, Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani is expected to present a bill to fortify the legal status of the Golan. Cabinet ministers have claimed that the bill will place constraints on the government's negotiations with Syria. Our correspondent has learned that Professor Shim'on Shetrit, a cabinet minister, took part in drafting the bill. More from our correspondent Menashe Raz:

The Golan settlers council was looking for a way to fight the government—a real battle with more than bumper stickers and billboards reading: "The people are with the Golan." One of the council members, Yehuda Har'el, raised the idea to revive a bill according to which any move by Israel that entails waiving sovereignty would require broad national agreement, supported by a special majority of 70 MK's. The Golan lobby hesitated, doubting that the bill could pass the Knesset. Har'el did not give up. He contacted Attorney Dov Weissglass, who drafted a draft basic law: the state's borders. At this stage, the Golan lobby sought to reduce the scope of the law to make it applicable to the Golan alone. It was decided to approach Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit.

This had two goals: Har'el asked Shetrit to draft a bill that would not be sweeping and would deal only with the Golan. He also explained that the very fact of Minister Shetrit's backing of the draft bill would allow several Labor MK's to endorse it. Attorney Eli Ben-Tovim, a Shetrit associate, drafted the bill, and the final rewording and touch-ups were done by Minister Shetrit himself.

In a meeting in Shetrit's Knesset office last Wednesday [7 September], the minister once again reviewed the proposed bill before the seven Labor MK's were asked to sign it. Shetrit also insisted that the signatories be coalition MK's from Labor, YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], and SHAS [Torah Observing

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Sephardim] to ensure that the bill would not be perceived as an opposition attack on the government.

In reaction, Minister Shim'on Shetrit said this evening that the issue was raised in discussions held by the Labor mainstream, which he heads. According to him, his involvement in the affair does not go beyond the norm of holding political consultations on bills and key public affairs. The minister added that when Labor institutions reach a decision on the issue, he will follow the rule of his party's majority.

Other cabinet ministers with whom I spoke this evening have different views. They expressed amazement at the possibility that a cabinet minister could be involved in an attempt to place constraints on a government of which he is a member. Another minister said, off the record, that this is a disloyal act which contravenes government regulations. A minister who fights the government cannot stay on as a cabinet member. Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said this evening: I do not believe that a cabinet minister could do such a thing. Knowing Minister Shetrit they way I do, I find this doubly hard to believe.

[Jerusalem Israel Television New Channel 2 in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 September carries an announcer-read report, adding: "The Golan settlers are preparing for a wave of protest activities. The settlers plan to set up illegal settlements on the Golan, disrupt Army drills, and stage hunger strikes." Correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz adds that "over the weekend, hundreds are expected to arrive at the Gamla site to put up a new settlement for a few days." "Large police forces will be sent to the Golan over the weekend to ward off possible serious riots."]

IDF Steps Up Patrols Around Jericho

TA1209171494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The security forces have stepped up patrols around the Jericho autonomy. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night closed the section of the Jordan Rift Valley road passing through Jericho for security reasons and traffic was transferred to the bypass road. The main road was reopened this morning, but the IDF escorted Israeli vehicles passing through Jericho.

There was a confrontation this morning between a Border Police force, which wanted to inspect Jericho's ancient synagogue, and a group of settlers, which wanted to pray there.

Knesset Briefed on Arrested Rightwingers

TA1309114394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Knesset subcommittee on intelligence was briefed today by the heads of the General Security Services [GSS]. Members of the committee were given a report on the planned attack by the right-wing extremists now under arrest. David Ze'ev reports:

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Or said this was the first time—and he hoped the last time—he was briefing reporters on a meeting of the intelligence subcommittee where the proceedings are normally classified. Knesset Member [MK] Or said he was doing so because of the rumors, as he termed them, over the conditions under which alleged right-wing extremists are facing interrogations.

In addition to Ori Or, those participating in this morning's meeting were subcommittee members Ran Kohen of Meretz, Avigdor Qahalani of Labor, and Ari'el Sharon and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar of the Likud. They were briefed by the acting head of the GSS, the GSS's legal council, and by the agent responsible for the case of Lieutenant Oren Edri who had filed the complaint.

In his briefing to reporters afterward, committee chairman Or said the cell of right-wingers was apprehended in the last moment, as it was about to carry out an attack not on the Orient House in East Jerusalem, not on Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat, but he would not disclose what or who the target was. He did say that it was not a mass attack, but a particular target they had in mind.

MK Or said normally the GSS carries out arrests when it believes it has a case to put the suspects on trial. In this case, however, the detentions were carried out, he said, to prevent the murderous attack from taking place. He said that whether those detained had actually carried out attacks is still under investigation.

In the case of Lt. Edri, the subcommittee was also briefed on the findings of the report by a Justice Ministry official, 'Eran Shandar, in charge of complains over GSS interrogations. Shandar was requested to carry out the inquiry by State Attorney Dorit Beinisch following Edri's complaint.

Ori Or says the subcommittee was told there were no mice in Lt. Edri's cell, there was no physical pressure exerted during questioning, a bag was never placed over Edri's head, nor was he prevented from performing religious requirements. Lt. Edri was also said not to be of the hard core of the extreme right wing.

Or sharply denied that the GSS had preferred not to report to the subcommittee. The contrary is true, he said, reporting to the MK's is the only way the GSS has to give its side of the story.

Baraq Interviewed on Budget, Capabilities

TA0509115694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Sep 94 p 7

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, IDF chief of staff, by Alon Pinkas and Steve Rodan; place and date not given]

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[Text] [JERUSALEM POST] Was this year's military-budget fight harder for you than in previous years?

[Baraq] The prime minister and defense minister allowed us to present our positions. I think that, overall, the economy is developing in the right direction, in a way that is decreasing the military burden.

But the question is whether the budget can be increased or decreased in real terms. Our argument is that with the erosion in recent years, our request is justified.

From 1986 to 1995, the defense portion of the state budget declined from 24 to 18 percent. The social services part of the budget during the same period rose from 18 to 34 percent....

From 1992 to 1995, the investment in the social ministries grew by nearly 40 percent, or NIS [new Israeli shekels] 11 billion. What we are asking for is negligible in terms of the national budget. All in all, we are asking for NIS 700 million.

The peace agreements won't be stable if security is not in order. Reaping the peace dividends will only be possible in two to three years, after the signing of the peace treaties with our immediate neighbors.

[JERUSALEM POST] What are the threats that justify an increased defense budget?

[Baraq] Islamic fundamentalism, and by that I mean political fundamentalism, not what is between man and God. State-sponsored terrorism and the attempts by some of those states to acquire nuclear capabilities.

Our tasks are primarily maintaining day-to-day security, as well as further strengthening the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], emphasizing the challenges of the future military battlefield.

Our top priorities are enhancing the IDF's long-range reach and its intelligence-data acquisition capabilities. Essentially, the long-range threat, even with peace agreements, is Islamic fundamentalism.

[JERUSALEM POST] How do you respond to the public, which argues that there is ample room for cuts?

[Baraq] We constantly make tremendous efforts to cut costs, including in the reserves. When we talk about salaries, all the F- 16s and Blackhawks won't mean anything if we can't keep the best people.

It is a challenge that we must confront in the future. Take the present General Staff, for example. It is an excellent group of devoted professionals.

I think that there will be a way to obtain a certain increase.... From speaking to the cabinet and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, I think our situation is okay. The increase ultimately won't be what I had asked for as chief of staff, nor will it appear in the 1995 budget. We will be compensated in other ways.

[JERUSALEM POST] What are the directions and trends in the IDF's efforts to address the future battlefield?

[Baraq] We are getting stronger in all the branches of the military. By 1997 we will begin receiving the advanced F-15s and the F-16A/B.

We have received Apache and Blackhawk attack helicopters.

As for the Navy, we received the EILAT, the first of three SAAR-5 missile boats, as well as the Israeli-built SAAR 4.5 upgraded missile boat. There are also two Dolphin-class submarines.

In the ground forces, more armor units are equipped with the Merkava 3, which is the world's best tank and the most cost- effective one, as well as new armored personnel carriers.

The Multiple-Launched Rocket System (MLRS)... is a very important addition to our artillery.

[JERUSALEM POST] How will the IDF cope with new advanced weapons that Arab states will now be allowed to purchase from the U.S. if the peace process is completed?

[Baraq] There is no substantial difference in the systems that the Arabs get from the Americans. They receive the same systems (as the IDF) in the same time. The Egyptians received the F-16 jet and the M1A1 battle tank.

We hope that the suppliers will be sensitive and make an effort to prevent a race in terms of quantity. Not quality, because in quality they have everything. It's a problem.

[JERUSALEM POST] The Egyptians are calling for Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Is this their way of trying to achieve strategic parity with Israel?

[Baraq] There is no strategic parity of resources and intentions. In Europe, for example, stability was achieved after many years of cooperation and dialogue.

They talk to each other, cooperate and coordinate. They share the same values. In this region, that will take time. There are various types of regimes here. You never know what will happen. It's a jungle.

[JERUSALEM POST] What about efforts at arms control?

[Baraq] It's early. We attend seminars. We study the European example. Everything in its time. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

[JERUSALEM POST] Would you clarify your position on retention of the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] A professional opinion has been given. Currently, we must hold the entire Golan. Even in times of peace, the IDF should remain on the Golan Heights.

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But we live in a democracy, where an elected government has to make this decision.

It could decide on withdrawing earlier (than we recommend) or beyond the line that we advise. The IDF will then provide the best security possible and plan accordingly to whatever boundary the government sets.

[JERUSALEM POST] Is retention preferable to full demilitarization?

[Baraq] That is a political issue that has to be dealt with in negotiations. We have not reached that point yet.

[JERUSALEM POST] Are you getting involved in the debate over the Golan?

[Baraq] There's no reason to keep this secret. The public should know this. We are confining our assessment to the security situation. The political echelon has to consider our professional opinion. The Americans should know, and they do.

[JERUSALEM POST] Will you resign if the government sets a line that falls short of what you feel is capable of being defended?

[Baraq] I don't think this is what is being discussed. We haven't reached that point. Any line that the government sets, we will say what is needed for its defense.

[JERUSALEM POST] What problems do you foresee in the IDF redeployment in Judaea and Samaria when the Palestinians get ready to hold elections?

[Baraq] There is a danger that we will leave some of the cities that Israelis drive through. We have to provide security for the Israelis.

For some of these cities, you might say that we should provide detours. But there are places where detours are impossible. There is no detouring Ramallah. There's nowhere to travel through. There is no real detour of Nabulus. So this is very complicated in terms of ensuring security.

We can't imagine leaving security ambiguous. It's a very serious problem and I see ourselves as responsible. People live there with official approval and even encouragement, and they have the right to security.

As far as Gaza and Jericho, there is a lot to do to enhance security. Security is being implemented on a partial basis. It's a beginning. The Palestinian police have a lot to do. There are some who don't like to hear this.

I must say that the prime minister and defense minister encourages me all the time to say what we really think—both to the government and the public. The same was true with the previous government. You have to tell the truth. I ask the same from the intelligence branch.

This is very important. Can you imagine if this did not happen? That's the reason I said what I felt from the first day. It is vital that they know this. We gave our opinions during the negotiations.

[JERUSALEM POST] Back to threat assessments. How much of a threat does Iran constitute?

[Baraq] In the long term, this is the biggest threat. Iran is a terrorist state with nuclear aims. I don't want to turn Iran into our enemy. It is not just our problem. The modern and free world share the problem. We saw it in (the) London and Manhattan (bombings).

[JERUSALEM POST] Does Western Europe care about what we view as the Iranian threat?

[Baraq] The intelligence communities share our assessments of the significance of this threat. Business people in Europe see things in the short term, looking at the billions they could make. but all of us are affected by this: the combination of suicide attacks and state-sponsored terror.

We now must deal with this point by point and comprehensively. Look at how al-Qadhdhafi behaved after the sanctions imposed on him in the wake of Lockerbie. I think the U.S. policy of "dual containment" vis-a-vis both Iran and Iraq is correct, and it should not change.

[JERUSALEM POST] Finally, is the chief of staff the most interesting job in your 35 years in the military?

[Baraq] I have had many interesting jobs. In terms of personal experience, the post of battalion commander was the most intense I've ever had.

I was never bored, virtually not for a moment of my 35 years in the army.

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Fadlallah Discusses Cairo Population Conference

NC1209203694

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic on 9 September publishes on page 7 an approximately 3,500-word undated interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a prominent Shiite leader widely believed to be the spiritual leader of Hizballah, by Muna Sukkariyah, in Beirut. Fadlallah discusses the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, and violence by some Islamic movements.

Fadlallah disapproves of the "emotional" reaction to the ICPD by some Islamic sides. He says Muslims should not isolate themselves from world issues but should confront and try to influence them. "I am against this negative approach and against attempts to fight counter ideas in an emotional way."

Fadlallah says he believes the way the conference was handled by Western media and the Vatican's campaign against it, which portrayed the ICPD as a forum discussing abortion and sexual freedom, helped to draw this emotional reaction from the Islamic world. Asked what purpose the Western media and the Vatican tried to serve, he answers: "Perhaps the aim was to find some trumpets to blow on to suggest to the Western public that the Islamic world is irrational in its handling of the pressing human issues in our contemporary world."

Fadlallah also attributes the Islamic reaction to the ICPD partly to the Muslims' suspicion concerning anything coming from the West. He says: "Muslims are very cautious about any Western plans. We find general opposition to any plan proposed by the West, even if it concerns the human being. We wonder what the objective of this plan might be. We are used to the West proposing many plans that may appear humane but hide intentions to control the region."

Fadlallah explains that Islam is not against birth control but contests the argument that population growth obstructs development. He maintains that the West's policy of "stealing the wealth of the Islamic world" and its plans to "create problems in the Islamic world" are largely to blame for hindering Islamic development. He says the United States and the West work to hamper solidarity among the peoples of the Islamic world by preventing rich Islamic countries from aiding the poor ones. He states: "I believe the Islamic world is not allowed to demonstrate integration, unity, and solidarity. I am responsible for what I am saying. The Islamic world is ruled by despotic regimes installed to guard the interests of world arrogance, primarily the United States."

Asked about the violence practiced by some Islamic movements, Fadlallah says that most of this violence is a reaction to the violence of the regimes and is not initiated by the Islamic movements. He says the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria was not a violent movement "but the regime's mad violence, the international political interference in the struggle in Algeria, and the chaos in the Islamic positions led to that violence."

Fadlallah argues that the West encourages some Islamic violence to serve its interests. He says: "We know that the West encourages many Islamic movements that practice violence. The West is not sincere in its rejection of violence. It rejects violence only if it is directed against its interests and does not reject it if it is directed against the interests of its adversaries." He adds: "The United States is prepared to accept the most violent Islamic, nationalist, and patriotic movements against French or British interests in any Third World country. It adopted the revolution of the Afghan Mujahidin against the Soviet Union although that revolution represented extreme violence." He claims one of the methods the West is using to keep the cycle of violence is to instruct regimes to practice violence so that this will arouse reaction and the vicious circle will continue.

Returning to Algeria, Fadlallah states: "I am not one of those who justify what is taking place in Algeria. We are against killing foreign diplomats, because they have nothing to do with the conflict, and we do not condone killing intellectuals merely because they have opposing views. What is happening in Algeria is madness, the madness of struggle."

Israeli, 'Islamic Resistance' Attacks Noted

NC1209172194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of al-Sawwanah and Majdal Silm this afternoon with 120-mm artillery shells. Israeli vehicles were seen moving toward the Tallusah position.

The Islamic Resistance said it fired five mortars on the Tallusah position, hitting an Israeli military assembly point and causing an unknown number of casualties, according to the Islamic Resistance spokesman.

Israel's Gur Tours 'Security Zone'

TA1209174694 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1242 GMT 12 Sep 94

["Communication" by Defense Ministry spokesman Dan Weinreich]

[Text] "In President al-Asad's speech to the Syrian Parliament there is definitely a change of tone, but it is not sufficient for Israel. We are expecting al-Asad to clarify his intentions for peace, in order to be able to make progress towards a general settlement," Deputy

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Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said yesterday (Sunday), 12.09.94 [date as received], during a visit to the security zone in Lebanon. He was accompanied by OC [officer in command] Northern Command and senior officers.

Deputy Minister Gur was present at operational activities and spoke to officers on the ground. He was impressed by the quality and the intensity of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations.

Deputy Minister Gur also visited Marj 'Uyun and met with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander, General Antoine Lahd. He told him: "For the implementation of peace with Lebanon, Israel sets two conditions: one is security of the settlements in northern Israel and the second is security for the southern part of Lebanon and General Lahd's personnel. Of course this depends on the will of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, and then it will be possible to turn the northern region into a model region for peace."

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Al-Zu'bi, Economy Minister Meet Polish Official

JN1209160894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Polish Minister of Industry and Trade Marek Pol at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din and Poland's ambassador in Damascus. Marek Pol conveyed the greetings of Polish Prime Minister Waldeman Pawlak to Mahmud al-Zu'bi who asked him to convey his greetings to him. Talks during the meeting dealt with existing relations of cooperation in the industrial field and means to develop these relations.

Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi today received Polish Minister of Industry and Trade Marek Pol and his accompanying delegation, which is currently visiting Syria. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed trade, economic, and technical cooperation relations between the two countries and the means to develop and broaden these relations to serve the interest of both countries. The meeting was attended by the director of public relations at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, Poland's ambassador in Damascus, and the Polish Embassy staff.

Marek Pol arrived in Damascus this morning at the head of a Polish delegation on a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Minister of Industry Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din and a number of senior ministry officials.

The Polish industrial delegation's visit to Syria is in response to an invitation by the Ministry of Industry to develop relations of cooperation between the two countries in the industrial field. The delegation includes a number of representatives from the private industrial sector in Poland and Polish businessmen.

Media Comments on al-Asad 10 Sep Address

Radio Praises Statements

JN1209145594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The interest of the homeland and the nation, the people's dignity, and the future generations were the main topics in the speech—the guidance—President Hafiz al-Asad delivered at the opening session of the People's Assembly sixth legislative term. His excellency stressed the need to continue to improve work in the various sectors, to modernize and develop the means of production, establish the principle of equal opportunities, pay attention to and diversify scientific research, and to release the people's potential energies to join currently active energies in order to foster a developed society that can face all responsibilities and challenges with competence and ability.

The battle for peace is at the forefront. With his customary clearness and depth, the president touched on this topic. He stressed that Syria is the basic element in peace and that bad Arab conditions will not deter it from working for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive peace. His excellency said peace is a strategic option for Syria and that Israel has prevented any progress in the peace process by evading a commitment to the principles on which the Madrid Conference was based; that is, the international resolutions that regulate the peace process and the land-for-peace formula.

His excellency stressed that our positions are always clear, frank, and unambiguous. Just peace is an objective we have seriously sought and that we seek to achieve. Our objective is to regain the rights and occupied territories in full. Then, Syria will fulfill the objective requirements of peace that are agreed upon.

That important and comprehensive political speech was the focus of attention for political quarters and the various media organizations in the world. They studied and analyzed it, concentrating on the role of Syria and the president in the making of peace and the seriousness of Syria's position toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region that guarantees rights and dignity, ends the state of war and occupation, and serves as a factor for stability and security for all.

In order to achieve that, Israel must abide by the genuine components of peace and not seek to impose on the peace process extraneous elements that do not serve the peace efforts, but instead further complicate it and prevent any success. Leader al-Asad was very clear when he said: We always mean what we say and we fulfill our promises, but we do not usually promise anything except what we are convinced of, and we do not do anything if it does not serve the interests of our country. It may be, in this case, that there is an interest to us and to others. However, we will never do anything and we will never agree to anything that serves the others, and not Syria. We really want peace, and we are aware and we realize that everybody has an interest in this peace. However, we also resist all those who want to monopolize this peace. We will resist this and nobody will ever be able to realize peace with Syria without Syria's conviction. Syria adheres to its interests and rights, particularly its occupied territory.

Gentlemen, this is Syria's candid and principled position, which abides by the interests of the homeland and the dignity of the people and nation and works in accordance with the UN resolutions to achieve a peace that the world wants to be just and comprehensive so that it can survive, endure, and create stability in the region and the world.

'Clear, Accurate' Points Welcomed

JN1309094794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Press review]

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[Text] Today's local press commentaries revolve around the speech His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad delivered at the People's Assembly the day before yesterday. This speech garnered considerable official and media interest at Arab and international levels. Observers stressed that President al-Asad was very clear and accurate regarding all issues posed, particularly concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Under the headline "The Experience of Correction," a TISHRIN editorial says: President al-Asad's historic speech before the newly elected People's Assembly was not only a national action guide for the present and future, but also an opportunity to spotlight the rich experience acquired by the Corrective Movement in all fields of development and life over almost a quarter century.

TISHRIN says the importance of this experience lies in the fact that it has: First, augmented Syria's status and moved it from the stage of marginal reaction to events to an influential pioneering regional role contributing to the drafting of strategic decisions affecting Arab life and existence. Second, it managed to build a cohesive and lofty social and economic structure in Syria enjoying stability and possessing all requisites of progress, prosperity, and development. Third, this experience has led to the emergence of a host of social and philosophical laws that contribute to enriching human thought and enabling man to solve the most complex social and economic problems.

TISHRIN notes that in his speech, President Hafiz a-Asad presented a pioneering development philosophy based on a rich personal experience, an accurate knowledge of the laws of society and life, and a comprehensive theoretical and critical perspective encompassing the experience of others and the shining elements in Arab cultural heritage. The important thing about this philosophy, adds the paper, is that it is characterized by an indefinite confidence in the people's ability to make miracles and an optimistic view of the future, exploring its characteristics, and employing them in shaping the present.

TISHRIN sums up the main characteristics of this experience and says: These characteristics stem from the following facts: First, man represents a great value and is even the basis of any progress. Second, every stage in the struggle of our people is higher than the preceding one. Third, we rely on the principle of a comprehensive and balanced development that encompasses all aspects of life together and departs from hastiness, bragging, and improvisation. Fourth, we work to revive all that is original and good in the history of our nation and discard old baggage that impedes progress. This is a basic condition for progress and sound construction. Finally, one should always look forward to what is perfect and ideal. Satisfaction with what has been achieved will lead to a state of relaxation that will soon lead to a state of weakness and retreat and loss of the fundamentals of progress.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that adhering to this approach, which seeks perfection, a bright future, and fulfillment of ambitions, will stimulate capabilities, trigger energies, help utilize potential capabilities, and turn dormancy into a productive and beneficial power. It says that these are some of the theoretical characteristics of President al-Asad's experience presented in his latest address. These are of course not all the characteristics. It is an experience that achieved progress, stability, and might for Syria.

Under the headline "Clear and Accurate Answers," an AL-BA'TH commentary says: The comprehensive pan-Arab speech accurately expressed the thoughts of every Syrian and Arab citizen. As he has always done, President al-Asad was very clear and accurate in answering all the questions posed at local, Arab, and international levels. AL-BA'TH stresses that the president clearly pointed to the seriousness of the Arab status quo, which was created by the deviant behavior of some from what is essential and even sacred. In this respect, his excellency stressed that the overall Arab and international developments have led to a retreat from the Arab constants, thus weakening the overall Arab position. However, his excellency, out of his discerning strategic perspective, asserted that the situation plaguing the Arab world is temporary, will not last for long, and that the Arab nation will stand up and face up all hazards and challenges.

The paper adds: Concerning the just and comprehensive peace, the leader of the nation said that Syria indeed wants peace and is aware that everyone has an interest in this peace. Syria, however, will continue to resist anyone who tries to monopolize peace in his own interest. His excellency said that no one can achieve peace with Syria unless Syria so chooses. Syria will continue to adhere to its interests, rights, and, most important of all, its occupied land.

AL-BA'TH notes that Syria, from the very inception of the peace process, emphasized that it has been genuinely seeking a just and comprehensive peace in the region and that it has provided everything possible to this end. Israel, however, is still not concerned with the establishment of a genuine peace in conformity with the resolutions of international legitimacy, which means in effect a rejection of all the requirements of just and comprehensive peace. Peace will not be just or comprehensive without the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions. It adds: Israel should realize that unequal deals and agreements that do not guarantee rights cannot, as President al-Asad said, constitute a factor of security and stability in the region.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: In his comprehensive historic address, our leader stressed that Syria is ready to offer everything that leads to the success of the peace process, but without relinquishing an inch of the homeland's territory.

In the "With the Events" column, AL-BA'TH says: Syria and Lebanon seek a peace established on right and

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justice without relinquishing rights. Since Israel does not want this, and since it seeks to usurp Arab rights and maneuvers to gain Arab acceptance of this usurpation, peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks seem to be stumbling because Syria and Lebanon do not want to do as others did. It adds: President al-Asad said in his historic and important address that despite difficulties and a lack of progress, there is some hope that peace will be achieved. In this regard, AL-BA'TH quotes the president as saying: For our part, we will promote this hope so it will grow and become a reality, that is, the making of peace, but on the just and comprehensive principles we stated right from the beginning, and we have never hidden or concealed our affairs or principles from anyone.

Israeli Stands Not Seen To Merit Optimism

JN1009063894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israeli Maneuvers," TISHRIN today comments in its editorial on Israel's continued intransigent policy on the peace process and rejection of the bases of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. TISHRIN says that the rulers of Israel pay no attention to the UN Security Council resolutions governing the peace process nor the bases of the process as agreed upon before the convocation of the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN says: It is common knowledge that the UN Security Council resolutions provide for full Israeli withdrawal from the entire occupied Arab territories and reject Israel's imposition of its laws on the Golan, considering them null and void. After all these resolutions and after all the talks that were held in Washington and the contacts that have been held by the U.S. secretary of state, Israel wants to legalize its seizure of the Golan through international law.

TISHRIN adds: Israeli officials believe that they can impose their terms on Syria and Lebanon. Therefore, they are engaged in procrastination and maneuvers and demanding full peace and full normalization in return for a partial, limited withdrawal and false promises, deliberately ignoring the fact that Syria does not give in to extortion and that Syria's firmness and resolve cannot be undermined. Syria does not need anyone to testify to its intentions. When it joined the peace process, Syria did so out of its true faith in a just, comprehensive peace in Middle East, rather than by way of maneuvering and deception, as Israel is doing.

TISHRIN explains that the entire international community knows that Syria has exerted great efforts to advance the peace process. Moreover, it has frequently saved the peace process from Israel's destructive plots. If there is any party whose peaceful intentions should be tested, it is definitely Israel. Therefore, Syria views a full Israeli commitment to withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and translating this commitment into tangible reality on the ground as the yardstick for Israel's willingness for peace and for the sincerity of its peaceful intentions.

TISHRIN indicates that the Israeli rulers' stands do not call for optimism at all. They are part of Israel's policy on the political process—a policy that is based on aggression, occupation, arrogance, and a disregard for international conventions, the UN Security Council resolutions, and even the U.S. peace principles.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria is as determined to exert sincere efforts to achieve a genuine, comprehensive, and honorable Middle East peace as it is determined to adhere to its rights and territory. Syria will not relinquish an iota of its national soil nor any of its rights. Israel has no alternative but to fully withdraw its troops and dismantle all its settlements. These are basic conditions for peace.

ICPD Said Result of 'New World Order'

JN1209130094 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 8

["People's Talk" column by Bassam Ja'arah: "The Population and Development Conference"]

[Text] The [International] Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled for 5 September in Cairo, will be a hotbed of confrontation between the countries described as north and south or west and east and also between the poor and the rich of the world.

This confrontation will become even hotter after marginalizing the second word of the conference's title, because the rich countries—in addition to their other practices against the poor countries—will also try to exclude the issue of development. Indeed, they have succeeded to a large extent in achieving this mission, even before the conference begins. They made the issue of development a marginal one on the conference's agenda, because they attribute the decline in development wholly to the high rates of population growth in developing nations. This means that the ball is now in the court of the poor countries and that if these countries want to address the problem of development, they will have to do something about population growth. Certainly, rich countries now believe their role is confined to exporting contraceptive pills to developing nations to stem the population growth. Otherwise, the rich countries are ready to stem population growth by nuclear bombs.

Will the poor countries succeed in making the conference address the main issue, which is that of development? Will the developing nations succeed in convincing the conference that the rich countries are largely responsible for the retreat in development in the poor countries?

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The poor countries will try to do this, but we are not very optimistic about the results because the prelude to the ICPD gives an idea about its results. Since the conference is produced and directed by the rich countries, we can imagine in advance the scenario of the conference's work and we should know in advance its results.

The ICPD is, in effect, a result of the so-called new world order, which is seeking seriously to turn the clock back to the time of wars, military occupations, and imposition of mandate and custodianships on the poor countries under the pretext that these countries are unable to conduct their own affairs and achieve democracy. Seen from this perspective, the important thing is for the pillaging to continue. It doesn't matter if it happens in Rwanda or anywhere else as long as the economies of the rich countries continue to prosper.

Haydar Dismissal, al-Asad Regime Viewed

JN1209141294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 22

[Report by Shakir al-Jawhari from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Has one of the pillars of the Syrian regime fallen? This is the main question asked by observers following the details of the dismissal and arrest of Major General 'Ali Haydar, commander of the Syrian Special Forces. No doubt, this question stems from the concept that the ruling regime in Syria is backed and protected by some strong, influential figures in the Syrian Army and that if one or more of them withheld support, the regime would be threatened with downfall.

Such a concept is incorrect. It might have been correct in the beginning, when President Hafiz al-Asad led the 1970 "Corrective Movement," after which he assumed full power with the help of principal allies within the Army such as Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Major General Naji Jamil, and other ranking Army officers.

This, however, is not the current situation. It is true that the president's alliances with the principal Army commanders continue, but out of mutual loyalty, not due to the president's need for them. How and why? There is no longer a center pole within the Army other than President al-Asad. In the aftermath of the November 1970 movement, the rival center was eliminated. This center had imposed its grip on power. It was represented by Major General Salah Jadid, who recently died in al-Mazzah prison. The base of this center within the Army then vanished. The Army officers and soldiers began to express loyalty directly to the president, who no longer needed mediating links. This is confirmed by the fact that officers much more important than Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar left the Syrian Army without having any impact on the regime. Maj. Gen. Naji Jamil, the Air Force commander who was a basic pillar of the Corrective Movement, departed. Rif'at al-Asad, commander of the famous security squads that were reportedly protecting the regime, also departed. These squads were dissolved years ago and the regime continues to exist.

The Syrian Army today is no longer an army that assumes power depending on which of its officers wakes up and gets his tank to the radio station before the others, as people used to jest during the period of successive coups in Syria in the fifties. Since the 8 March 1963 revolution, only two military movements have succeeded. These two emanated from within the regime itself. One was the 23 February 1966 movement, which toppled Lieutenant General Amin al- Hafiz and the Party National Command under the late Michel 'Aflaq—and President al-Asad was one of the poles of that movement. The second was the 16 November 1970 movement, led by President al-Asad.

What facilitated the success of the al-Asad movement was the dual polarization within the Army and al-Asad's position as defense minister and a member of the National and Regional Commands of the ruling party. Afterward, there was only one center within the Army and the society as well. The Army also turned into an institution in the full sense of the word. It is an institution that enjoys care and attention on all levels, especially in the field of armament and training and the provision of the requisites of a decent life for its officers and personnel. For example, it is being jested in Syria that rarely can you find an officer who owns only one apartment or one car.

During President al-Asad's era, the Syrian Army acquired privileges. None of its personnel is ready to relinquish them for the sake of this or that high-ranking officer.

But what is the story behind the fall and arrest of Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar? The importance of the question stems from the many analyses, interpretations, and rumors that surrounded Haydar's dismissal. Some analysts said his dismissal was a signal to Washington that Damascus has decided to deal a severe blow to the hashish trade in the region and prevent its cultivation in Lebanon.

Some observers went further than that. They said removing 'Ali Haydar was a signal of ceasing support for terrorism, because of the relationship between Haydar and Carlos.

Some observers even went as far as saying that 'Ali Haydar had objected to the fast pace of negotiations on the Syrian track.

Those who know 'Ali Haydar experience a peal of laughter when they hear such analyses and interpretations. Those who know the real reason behind Haydar's dismissal and arrest laugh even more.

Those people say that the man, who is over 60, spent his time drinking and gambling in an apartment in the al-Mazzah neighborhood, the finest silk-stocking district in Damascus, which houses a complex for Army officers. Haydar spent many years doing this without anyone

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bothering about him. However, one evening he expressed extreme anger with the president because he promoted Maj. Gen. 'Ali Duba to the rank of lieutenant general but did not promote him. Haydar, who was completely drunk, expressed his anger by uttering foul words against the president. He also repeated the talk of the street that Haydar was one of the main protectors of the regime and that without him, the regime would not have survived so far. All those who were present could not suppress what they had just heard and could only immediately report Haydar's words. When President al-Asad learned about the news, he asked Lt. Gen. 'Ali Duba, in particular, to arrest 'Ali Haydar and throw him in jail until he sobered up.

Since this is the origin of the story, its interpretations are not true, including the connection between Haydar's arrest and the absence of another senior military commander who was also regarded as one of the pillars of the regime. We are talking about Maj. Gen. Shafiq Fayyad. People in the know confirm that Fayyad has been absent from the command of his units because of illness that has incapacitated him.

But what is the story of the hashish? What is the story of Carlos?

It is difficult to say that Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar was involved in the cultivation and trade of hashish in Lebanon. Assuming there was such involvement, it is difficult to believe he is the only one involved in this business.

Hashish, especially hemp, was secretly cultivated in the al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon before the Syrian troops entered Lebanon. It is true that its cultivation increased and the acreage expanded afterward. It is also true that Washington blames the Syrian forces in Lebanon for this and that it has raised this issue with Damascus more than once.

However, Damascus has responded to U.S. demands for some time now. Washington is no longer raising this issue.

It is rumored in Damascus that Basil, President al-Asad's son, who was asked during the two years that preceded his death in a car crash to take charge of internal security, was also asked to prevent smuggling operations from Lebanon to Syria and from Syria to Lebanon. This includes the smuggling of hashish.

The president's son indeed managed to limit smuggling operations by Syrians who live in the town of Madaya, close to the border with Lebanon. [passage omitted]

As far as the presidential succession race is concerned, Rif'at al-Asad is out of the running. Indeed, no one in Damascus seems to know for sure if the president's brother is now in Syria, having come to receive condolences over the death of his nephew Basil al-Asad, or if he has returned to Europe.

Nor does anyone know if he is still vice president—a position he shares with 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah—or if an unpublicized decree removed him from office.

If we are broaching the subject of succession this is not to say that al-Asad's health is under any threat. By all accounts, he is in good enough shape to perform his official duties satisfactorily. The president's stamina is such that he can sit through a 10-hour session of talks. President al-Asad is, sometimes, facetiously described as master of the diplomacy of the bloated bladder. The idea is that through a protracted session, al-Asad's interlocutor is made to feel the pressing need to go the toilet to relieve himself, with the result that he experiences a lapse in his concentration and so makes concessions in order to rush to the nearest bathroom.

It is sometimes said, not entirely seriously, that whether the Golan Heights is evacuated or not will depend on how Mr. Warren Christopher will conduct himself under the excruciating pain of a bloated bladder!

If al-Asad's remarkable degree of patience and stamina is any indication, the Syrian president must be in good shape—never mind the questions raised about his health over the past 15 years following a heart attack and the blood transfusions, nececitated by leukemia, he has had to undergo every six months. His stamina also shows in a strict dietary regime to which he has subjected himself as the best antidote for a coronary condition. [passage omitted]

While we are on the subject of Syria, let's consider the following points:

First, that Basil al-Asad had been groomed to succeed his father is little more than media speculation echoing the unsubstantiated sentiment of the Syrian man in the street;

Second, al-Asad never signalled that he was grooming Basil to succeed him;

Third, al-Asad's younger son Bashshar has not been seen to attend any public function since the speech he made thanking his brother's mourners on behalf of his father. Thus, it is an overstatement to say that he is being coached to succeed his father. Yet, neither Khaddam nor Mashariqah is expected to become Syria's next president if and when the Presidency falls vacant. Coming from a non-military background, neither has the broad support of the military, nor do either of the two come from al-Asad's communal power base.

As for Carlos, the internationalist Venezuelan revolutionary had a long stay in Damascus. Some Damascus residents report emphatically that he was living in the so-called section 84 of the elegant al-Mazzah neighborhood.

The question that no one seems able to answer for sure is whether the Syrian authorities knew Carlos was in Damascus. It is equally uncertain whether Carlos was in contact with Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar. [passage omitted]

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Minister Assesses Status of Oil Industry

JN0909172194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
12 Jul 94 p 3

["Text" of interview with Oil and Minerals Minister Dr. Nadir Nabulsi by Muhammad al-Rifa'i; place and date not given—first paragaph is TISHRIN introduction]

[Excerpts] Syria is an oil and gas-producing country. At the same time, however, it is not an oil state in the full sense of the word, or as commonly understood. Syria produces all the gasoline it needs, and most of the fuel oil necessary for local consumption. Not very long ago, promising new gas discoveries were made, making it possible to replace the fuel oil used for power in factories and many establishments. Fuel oil is now being replaced by gas. So, Syria is an oil-producing state. The oil sector in our country is one of the major pillars of the national economy. Syrian experience in the oil industry—prospecting, drilling, producing, and marketing—is one of the leading experiences in the Third World countries. The oil sector has not led to any political or economic subservience by our country. On the country, it supports our country and has contributed a great deal to resolving many of the difficulties facing the public sector. It has strengthened our political and economic decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of our questions and the minister's replies to them:

Al-Rifa'i: Is it possible to put us in the picture about the latest oil discoveries by service contract companies and the Syrian Oil Company?

Dr. Nabulsi: The Syrian Oil Company has succeeded in making important gas discoveries in the Tadmur mountain range and in the area north of that range. This is in addition to its previously discovered reserves. These discoveries are important for the country. However, they are modest compared to other gas-rich countries. Almost the entire supply of available gas will be used our country to generate electricity power in place of fuel oil.

Al-Rifa'i: The Syrian Oil Company has asked for five percent of oil exports to be paid in foreign currencies to ensure its requirements. What is your opinion on that?

Dr. Nabulsi: The aim is not to fix certain percentage, but to ensure the requirements. The government has allocated over the past few years adequate foreign currencies for the Syrian Oil Company to purchase four new rigs and to modernize the old rigs by purchasing advanced equipment for them. Gas projects have also been financed. This is in addition to ensuring all necessary requirements.

Al-Rifa'i: Everyone agrees that there is a continuous drain on the Syrian Oil Company's manpower due to financial temptations. Have you done anything to stop this drain, such as increasing remunerations for instance?

Dr. Nabulsi: There is no doubt that work in the oil industry is difficult and complex. A continuous drain of technical manpower has occurred at the Syrian Oil Company due to financial temptations. This year, we agreed with the competent quarters in the government to increase production incentives, especially for the technical personnel. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i: Are there new contracts to be signed with international companies?

Dr. Nabulsi: We have contacted several international companies during the past two years. Negotiations are now under way with companies. We hope it will be possible to sign new contracts with them by the end of 1994, if agreement is reached with these companies, which insist on changing some of the terms which they consider uneconomic at present in light of international developments and the emphasis on prospecting operations in different parts of the world.

The service contract companies are Shell and Dynamics. This is in addition to the Syrian side. A joint company called the Euphrates Company, consisting of several partners, has been established. There is the Dayr al-Zawr Company which consists of the Syrian side and the [French] Elf [Aquitane] Company. Currently, we have an Irish company and an American company undertaking prospecting work. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i: What about the oil refining industry and the prospects of developing existing refineries in order to meet all consumption needs?

Dr. Nabulsi: Out of the need to meet the requirements of the local market with white oil products of the best specifications, the ministry is seriously considering developing the Hims and Baniyas Oil Refineries in order to catch up with world advancement in oil refining operations. It is also considering operating these two refineries with the best economic returns in order to meet the local market's needs for white oil products with acceptable international specifications. In order to achieve that, the ministry contracted an international firm three years ago to prepare an economic and technical feasibility study about the best way to improve the economies of oil refining in the country. The ministry then conducted other studies to amend the international study in light of the new developments concerning the existing consumption and production of oil by-products in the country.

The ministry is currently in the process of inviting bids from international expertise houses in order to work out the necessary technical terms to implement the results of the study and its amendments in accordance with the most recent world technology in this regard and in order to achieve the best economic returns for Hims and Baniyas oil refineries. This development aims at the following: 1. Meeting the domestic market's oil products needs, especially fuel oil and gas, by 2005;

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2. Producing white oil products at a specification acceptable to world markets;

3. Achieving the best economic returns for the Hims and Baniyas refineries;

4. Maintaining a clean environment by reducing pollutants resulting from burning oil by-products; this will be done by reducing the ratio of sulphur in these by-products to the minimum level allowable internationally and also by reducing ethyl and lead contents in gasoline to the minimum level possible and producing lead-free gasoline for export.

It is clear from the study by international experts to improve the economies of oil refining in the country, and the amendments we introduced to that study, that both the Hims and Baniyas refineries need to develop their technological plan and introduce new productive units to meet the local market's growing demands for oil by-products, especially gas and heavy oil. They need to operate with high economic returns and to tackle problems which might face the refining industry in the future, mainly:

—Conversion of electric power stations in the country to gas rather than fuel oil-powered stations will lead to the existence of a surplus of fuel oil which will be difficult to market, due to its high content of sulphur. This is in addition to the possibility of a drop in the refining capacity of the country's refineries.

—The growing consumption of fuel oil and gas will necessarily lead to the importation of larger quantities of these two items in current refining conditions.

—New discoveries of natural gas have added a new factor to balance of energy in the country and necessitated the use of this good, clean, and fairly cheap source of energy. Its use will lead to saving large quantities of white oil by-products for export. This would bring in more foreign currencies to the state treasury.

Thus, in view of the above and the conclusions reached by the studies, the proposed development of Hims and Baniyas refineries should achieve the following:

1. Improve the quantity and quality of oil by-products available for export, which will lead to an increase in world demand for them, and therefore an increase in the state's foreign currency revenues.

2. Increase the quantities of oil by-products—fuel oil and gas—in order to meet the local market's growing demands and therefore dispense with the importation of these two products. This will save foreign currencies which can be channeled into other economic activities.

3. Provide white oil products of good specification for local use. This will lead to a drop in pollution and therefore reduce the necessary allocations for tackling the pollution resulting from the use of these products.

Finally, when we asked the minister about the total quantity of Syrian oil crude production, the minister spoke a great deal on this subject. He referred to the up and down movement of production due to the conditions of oil wells. He preferred in the end not to directly answer this question.

The question of figures, especially when it comes to production, is a journalistic curiosity. Therefore, in order to satisfy this curiosity and fill the citizens with hope, we can mention the following production figures. Oil production 10 years ago did not exceed 200,000 bpd [barrels per day], consisting mainly of heavy crude. After the service contract companies began discovering new and good types of light crude, production several years ago was in the region of 35,000 bpd [figure as published]. Then it improved and increased at a steady speed until it reached 400,000 bpd four years ago.

Currently, the total production is 562,000 bpd, including 240,000 bpd which go to the refineries to meet the demands for oil by- products. A part of the remainder goes to the service contract companies to compensate them for the funds they invested in prospecting, drilling, and production. The remaining quantity of oil is exported. This prompts us to emphasize what we said earlier in this interview that Syria is an oil-producing country. However, it is not an oil-rich state. Oil is definitely the core of our economy; in fact, is it is one of the pillars and main sectors of the national economy.

Paper Urges Bank Reforms To Spur Savings

JN0909135294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 8

[Article by Jihad al-Na'san: "How Can We Overcome the Phenomenon of Those Who Collect Funds? The Need for a Stock Exchange Market Increases Day by Day; What is Needed Is a Flexible Banking System Regardless of the Sector To Which It Belongs"]

[Text] Some time ago I received a letter from Hamah. The writer said he hesitated before writing because of what he called his unreassuring impressions about our local papers' role in public life. He says he overcame his hesitation only because of the persistence of many relatives, friends, and neighbors who asked him to write about what had become of their life's possessions in the hands of some Aleppo money investors.

The letter writer said scores of people deposited their funds with these investors—funds they accumulated either under the harsh conditions of expatriate life, or by selling their homes and the jewelry of their wives and daughters, or by actually borrowing from state banks. They did so not to get rich, but in a desperate attempt to make ends meet by achieving a balance between their limited incomes and sky-rocketing prices.

The letter is long. We will try to summarize some of its points. The letter wonders why the law banning the

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collection of funds considers the investors as violators of the Trade Law, but not outright bankrupts and frauds.

It also wonders why the news media commended the law and failed to consider the viewpoint of the depositors. The letter contains others points, some of which cannot be published here. However, it is possible to allude to some of them. This stricken citizen calls on Syrian banks to compensate depositors, as was the case in the Kuwaiti al-Manakh Market.

The letter truly expresses the agony of a citizen who deposited his funds with investors, and then woke up to suddenly find himself, along with scores of others, lining up outside the doors of the investors in order to retrieve these funds, fearing that they might have been lost.

Therefore, his proposals are all centered on regaining his deposits. He is appealing to the government to help him regain his rights.

I would not have commented on the letter from this stricken citizen if not for the recurrent reports about the growing number of investors who have failed to repay depositors following the issuance of the aforementioned law. The last of these incidents happened in Aleppo.

The basic point I want to emphasize in our comment on the citizens's letter, which sums up the demands of tens of thousands of others who deposited their funds with investors, is that we do not have a miraculous cure for bankruptcy. Bankruptcy cases occurred in the past, they are occurring now, and they will continue to occur in the future. Deterrent measures or leaving matters will not help. In either case, we face a difficult option.

This phenomenon is no more than a fault in our economic system. The lack of adequate opportunities for investment or saving in guaranteed, safe banks has led citizens to such risky investment methods.

Fortunately, most of the depositors' funds are still in Syria and have not smuggled out of the country. Otherwise, the problem would have been even more difficult. The credit for keeping these funds inside Syria goes to the availability of good investment prospects following the issuance of the investment law and the inclination by many fund collectors to establish projects inside the country.

Loss is the logical and natural outcome when interest rates go up to more than 30 percent. Not a single company in Syria, or any other country for that matter, can produce income great enough to allow payment of a 30-35 percent dividend to a depositor; that is, if it engages in legal activity.

The reality we must all admit is that we lack the public and private means and establishments that can attract depositors' savings and then channel them into development in the appropriate manner. I believe this is one of the weakest points in our economic structure. Attention must be given to tackling this point in view of the potential benefit.

Despite the big efforts which are being exerted to develop saving and insurance institutions, we are still at the beginning of the road. The country needs more establishments, organizations, and institutions that can attract savings.

Our personal conviction is that the problem is not one of the public or private sector, but one of laws, regulations, and establishments. If they continue to work as they are now, they will not be able to cope with the economic progress taking place in the country. We believe, however, that the private sector can contribute effectively by accepting savings and supporting development projects with liquidity, given the proper rules, laws, and frameworks.

The present state of hesitation in Syria is not in anyone's interest. The way banks operate now, with such partial and limited roles, will not serve the purpose.

We have the right to ask: What is preventing the establishment of a bank for development and investment that can accept deposits from citizens and invest them directly in the capital of future projects?

The development of the banking system is a necessity. By saying this, we are not overlooking the major efforts exerted so far. We are only saying that we need a more flexible banking system that can overcome the present difficulties facing the banks, beginning with wages and remunerations for employees and ending with interest rates and dealing methods. Such a development can be carried out under any slogan and within any sector.

This is as far as banks are concerned. We must not forget that other means can be developed in order to accept deposits without any legal violations, such as investment funds.

But confining development to banks is not enough. The country needs to take a qualitative step which can help it cope with the current economic progress. Such a qualitative step is only possible if we set up a stock market and establish more shareholding companies.

Talking about a stock market can go on forever. And, regardless of the reasons that delay the issuance of a law for setting up such a market, the justifications for such a market are increasing day after day.

The phenomenon of the collection of funds by private investors with which we began this article will only disappear with the establishment of a stock market. Talk about eliminating that phenomenon will then be more credible and effective, because we will have found a suitable alternative to invest those funds.

Needless to say, the stock market will provide very suitable opportunities for organized and legal investment of funds with profitable dividends. This is because

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the prices of shares improve steadily in successful companies. The shareholder will have access to the financial, legal, and productive status of any shareholding company.

The stock exchange market is an effective means for accepting savings and investing them in productive projects. Its existence is not only essential, but also a guarantee for protecting the funds and rights of small depositors.

To the writer of the letter and his colleagues we say: The problem is not you, the investors, and the money collectors, but the administrative and economic system that does not provide sound, legal, and suitable opportunities for investments with suitable dividends. Such an opportunity will exist if a stock market is established and the banking system is properly developed. The law which was issued recently is a step on a long road which will gradually and calmly take us to the safe haven.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani's Forces Reportedly Confirm Fall of Khenjan

LD1209211394 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's forces have confirmed losing the strategic town of Khenjan. The supporters of Golboddin Hekmatyar and Abdol Rashid Dostam have captured Khenjan. Rival forces in Afghanistan yesterday fired at each others' positions in that city.

Commander, 80 Men Defect to Government Forces

LD1209192894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] A commander of Dostam's militias joined the Mojahedin this morning in some parts of Samangan Province.

A Bakhtar Information Agency military correspondent reports: Commander Salim, known as Atishpour, left the rank of militias today and joined the side of the Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army along with 80 men, after realizing the rightfulness of the Islamic State.

Two rocket launchers, two PK machine-guns, and 26 Kalashnikovs are among the weapons of the men who joined the government's side.

On behalf of his men, Commander Salim expressed his readiness to campaign against the militias, from now on, side by side with other Mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces.

Bangladesh

Troops for Haiti Multinational Force Pledged

BK1309045594 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Bangladesh will participate in the UN-sponsored multinational force for Haiti to help maintain public safety and basic civil order there after restoration of the legitimately-elected government. The decision came in the wake of a direct request from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman. A number of UN member countries are sending troops in the UN-sponsored multinational force for Haiti following (?initiatives) of the U.S. President to restore the legitimate and democratically elected Haiti Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, toppled in 1991. The multinational force will take part in operations under the UN Security Council resolutions. The United States has thanked Bangladesh Government and at the same time welcomed its decision to send troops with considerable experiences in UN-sponsored peacekeeping operations.

A Foreign Office spokesman said [word indistinct] proposed decision of Bangladesh is based on its abiding commitment to fully support the United Nations and to uphold the cause of democracy and peace around the world. Bangladesh peacekeepers and observers are at present working in UN-sponsored operations in 10 (?countries).

Nationwide Strike Begins; Streets 'Mainly' Empty

BK1309051894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 13 (AFP)—A nationwide strike plunged Bangladesh into new disorder on Tuesday and the opposition threatened to repeat the three days of action it organised to bring down the government.

The general strike was the climax of three days of chaotic events—which started with an attempt to lay seige to the capital—that has severely disrupted the country.

Pro and anti-strike groups hurled home-made bombs at each other, witnesses said. Some groups supporting the government forced bus drivers to work, and government transport also ran under heavy police escort, but the streets of Dhaka were mainly empty.

Shops, schools and most businesses remained closed. Some government officials walked to work, ignoring pickets, who tried to force pedicabs off the streets.

Residents reached by telephone in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal said the strike was also followed in their cities.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the main opposition Awami League, announced three days of strikes. The Jatiya Party (JP) of ex-president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the Moslem fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami also organised protests.

"No autocratic regime in the past could remain in power by resorting to repression," Wajed said in a statement. "The government will not survive."

The opposition, which has been boycotting parliament since March, maintains that free elections cannot be guaranteed under Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It is demanding that the government change the constitution so that all elections are held under a neutral administration.

The government has rejected the demands as "unconstitutional." Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, secretary general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said in a statement the opposition was pushing the country to the brink of destruction.

India

PRC Defense Minister Chi Continues Visit

Received by Prime Minister

BK1209161494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] India and China have expressed satisfaction over the performance of the joint working groups in keeping

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the borders tension-free. The two sides also agreed to intensify efforts to put into practice the spirit of the peace and tranquillity agreement into other areas as well. The visiting Chinese defense minister, Mr. Chi Haotian, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today. The two leaders noted that the bilateral relations have significantly improved after the high-level visits. They agreed to maintain the current level of consultations and also to enhance interaction of the parties at party level. Union ministers—Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Mallikarjun, and Mr. Bhavanesh Chaturvedi—and the defense and foreign secretaries were present at the meeting.

Meets Vice President

BK1309052694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Chinese defense minister met the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Narayanan said that India attaches great significance to the first ever visit of a Chinese defense minister. The vice president expressed satisfaction on the agreement for peace and tranquillity signed by the two countries.

General [Chi] Haotian said that China would do its utmost to make Indo-China border a border of peace and friendship.

Spokesman on Readiness for Talks With Pakistan

BK1209152894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] India has told the UN secretary general that it is ready for a constructive dialogue with Pakistan on bilateral issues under the framework of the Simla Agreement. There is no role for a mediator, nor any lack of political will. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that there is nothing new in the offer of Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali as New Delhi is always ready for talks with Islamabad. Responding to a query by newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the spokesman said that the Simla Agreement is extremely relevant even now as it has kept peace between the two countries for more than two decades.

Ugandan President Visits, Invites Investment

BK1209131694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Ugandan president, Mr. Y.K. Museveni, has invited Indian businessmen to invest in his country. Addressing a conference in Bombay on trade and investment opportunities in Uganda, President Museveni said his country has stability, availability of raw materials, and abundance of hydel [hydroelectric] power. Mr. Museveni, who arrived last night with a high-level delegation on a two-day visit to the city, also said his country does not insist on joint ventures.

Rao 'Fully Satisfied' With SRV, Singapore Visits

BK0909131994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that India reserves the right to regulate the pace of economic reforms and will not do anything which is against the national interests. Mr. Narasimha Rao was talking to newsmen on board the special plane on his way back from Singapore today. He said the economy is opening up, brining in investments and new opportunities.

The prime minister described his visit to Singapore as a beginning which will lead to other steps bringing India closer to ASEAN and the countries of Asia-Pacific. The prime minister said he is fully satisfied with his visit to Vietnam and Singapore.

Businessmen Sign Agreements With Hanoi

BK1209030994 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] The Indian business delegation led by Mr. R. P. Goenka, the chairman of CEAT, signed six joint venture agreements worth $158 million with the Vietnamese on Tuesday.

The agreements included: Transmission tower manufacturing and turnkey transmission line—$7 million (KEC International); engineering workshop on sugar machinery—$5 million (KCP-Ltd); assembly of railway coaches—$18 million (Rites); generation of power and fertiliser from municipal wastes—Hanoi, $15 million, and Ho Chi Minh City, $45 million (Western Pacques India Ltd); sugar mil!—$18 million (Nagarjuna Fertiliser and Chemicals Ltd); and truck tyres, $50 million (CEAT).

In fact, the Indian success at the business agreements were pioneered by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao himself. Only that he did not have to try hard since Vietnam had rolled out the red carpet. [sentence as published]

"We can say without a doubt that Mr. Rao's visit has been a great success," the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister, Mr. Le Mai, said while briefing the media.

Since the political relations between the two countries were already good, the task ahead was to push for enhanced economic, cultural and scientific relations.

The Vietnamese prime minister, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, identified the following areas for greater cooperation—agriculture and food processing, sugar mills, small dairy farms, rubber industry, small and medium enterprises, gas-based projects, mining, acquaculture, traditional medicine and the training projects for Vietnamese.

On the delegation's complaint on procedural delays, Mr. Kiet said, the State Commission for Cooperation in Investment and the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry should be the focus of their approach.

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To expedite the cooperation between the two countries, a joint commission would be set up which in turn, would set up an experts' working group.

Expanding economic cooperation was the theme at Mr. Rao's two-hour meeting-cum lunch with the general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party, Mr. Do Moui.

Mr. Do Moui said the full range of cooperation between the two countries was yet to be tapped, and Vietnam would have to send more fact-finding missions to India.

If the delegation's attitude was any indication, Vietnam could expect more investment. "We are positive about the potential of Vietnam," Mr. Goenka said, adding that in the next five years Vietnam could expect a minimum investment of $500 million from India. Around 8-12 more agreements would be signed in the coming six months.

Mr. Subodh Bhargava also reflected the upbeat mood. When asked if Indian industry could compete with the tiger economies of the east, he said that in the last three years, Indian industry has achieved new standards of quality". [quote mark as published]

The Prime Minister and his entourage will leave for Singapore on Wednesday after the signing of the agreements. These deal with foreign office consultations, avoidance of double taxation, visa regime and defence.

UN Assured of Support for Peacekeeping Operations

BK1009073694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] India today pledged its continued support for UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Rwanda, and other places. The assurance was given to the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who had a meeting with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid. Mr. Butrus-Ghali sought two more companies of Indian troops urgently for Rwanda.

On Kashmir, the secretary general expressed his hope that a dialogue would be maintained. He was told by the Indian side that New Delhi tried to encourage a dialogue but Pakistan had not reciprocated. Mr. Salman Khurshid told him that India will, however, continue this effort.

Government, Reserve Bank Sign Monetary Agreement

BK1209143694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 94 p 12

[Text] New Delhi—Reserve Bank [RBI] governor Dr. C. Rangarajan and Finance Secretary, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, on Friday signed what is described as a historic agreement providing that the net issue of ad hoc treasury bills for 1994-95 should not exceed Rs [rupees] 6000 crore.

It has also been agreed that if the net issue of ad hoc treasury bills exceeds Rs 9000 crore for more than 10 consecutive working days at any time during the year, the Reserve Bank will automatically reduce the level of ad hoc treasury bills by auctioning them or selling fresh Government dated securities in the market.

Addressing a press conference after the signing of the agreement, Dr. Rangarajan said similar ceilings for the net issue of ad hoc treasury bills would be stipulated for 1995-96 and 1996-97. From 1997-98, the system of ad hoc treasury bills will be totally discontinued.

Friday's agreement is a sequel to Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh's, budget speech. "...I propose to phase out Government's access to ad hoc treasury bills over a period of three years. In 1994-95, the budget deficit is being limited to about two-thirds of 1 per cent of expected GDP or Rs 6000 crore. Normally, net issue of ad hoc treasury bills for the year as a whole should not exceed this limit," Dr. Singh said.

The RBI governor said the system of issuing ad hoc treasury bills without any limit which has existed up to now resulted in direct monetisation of budget deficits and contributed to monetary expansion in past years. The effective management by RBI is contingent upon the fiscal deficit not leading to automatic monetisation. In this context, it was decided to depart from the system of ad hoc treasury bills under which RBI was required to automatically monetise budget deficits through the system of creation of ad hoc treasury bills.

The present agreement, he said, will phase out such automatic monetisation of the Government's budget deficit over a three-year period.

Dr. Rangarajan compared Friday's agreement with the 1951 accord between the U.S. Treasury and the FED [Federal Reserve System]. He clarified that the agreement would not mean that RBI would not hold Government papers in the future. RBI will do so only at its discretion.

Mr. Ahluwalia said the agreement had nothing to do with the size of fiscal deficit. The budget is on track. It was the mismatch between receipts and expenditure which resulted in the issue of ad hoc treasury bills. This year, revenue collections are on track and there has been no overrun of expenditure. Market borrowing is without any change in the interest range.

The finance secretary expressed robust optimism that the target fixed on the budgetary deficit would be met as the borrowing by the Central Government this year so far was much less than earlier envisaged.

He said while in the past, money supply growth could not be targeted, the situation had changed now with the Government setting a monetary target to maintain control over its expenditure.

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The chief economic adviser, Dr. Shankara N. Acharya, said the Government exercise to keep down the budget deficit was on the right track.

BJP Opposes Opening Print Media to Foreign Firms

BK1209140594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Sep 94 p 9

[Excerpt] Calcutta—The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will "oppose tooth and nail" the entry of foreigners into the country's print media. This was stated here on Thursday by Mr. Yashwam Sinha, party leader and former Union Finance Minister.

He told reporters the print media was a vital part of the democratic set up. Opening the door to foreigners in the print media would be tantamount to inviting them to take part in our democratic process and this could not but distort and vitiate the process. "This is the type of globalisation we are opposed to", he said. [passage omitted]

Scarcity of Funds Said Affecting Nuclear Projects

BK1209024994 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 6 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Paucity of funds has resulted in slowing down India's ambitious nuclear power programme, but its technological capability was not in doubt, according to the Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mr. A.N. Prasad.

In an interview to UNI here, Mr. Prasad said escalating prices of components and the long gestation period had grossly affected the future of nuclear power in the country though returns were much higher than in thermal power projects. He said the programme had to solely depend on internal generation by the Nuclear Power Corporation and Government funding as no institution, international or national, was willing to finance nuclear power projects.

Mr. Prasad also said that the slow-down of the nuclear programme had mainly affected the two 500-MW plants to be set up at Tarapur. As against the total requirement of about Rs. [rupees] 5,000 crores, the Government had sanctioned only Rs. 400 crores. The design for the 500-MW unit was complete and the Centre was all geared up with necessary land also available. The scale model design for final machinery was ready and the development of the scale model was on.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) had, in September last year, cleared the work on the third and fourth units of Tarapur. NPC had been exploring the possibility of setting up a joint venture company to undertake the project with the Maharashtra and Gujarat Governments. Manufacture of calanderias for the two units was completed and the manufacture of end shields and fabrication of coolant channel components continued.

Referring to the recent collapse of a portion of the dome of the Kaiga power plant's first unit, he said the accident might not cause considerable delay in commissioning the first unit. When referred to the AERB enquiry into the mishap, he said a parallel in-house enquiry was also being conducted by NPC [Nuclear Power Commission] and there was no difference in perception. By the way in which the enquiry was shaping up, it would not be difficult to take up rectification. However, there was nothing wrong in the concept of stress pattern.

Mr. Prasad said that after the mishap at the Narora plant in which a fire in the turbine had led to a black-out, BARC had decided to take up research work on turbines. In this connection it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Thermal Power Corporation which has done considerable work on generators.

The MoU stressed the exchange of technical know-how and research in various fields, including erosion and corrosion problems of blades, vibration problems, and structural mechanics.

He said the Centre had recently signed a similar understanding with HMT here to utilise the latter's idle production capacity for the manufacture of servo manipulators. The nuclear power programme had helped BARC develop various servo manipulators and robots to look into defects in the reactors where human entry was hazardous. HMT, which had plans for diversification, had agreed to take up its production.

Mr. Prasad also said that in the field of nuclear agriculture, the Centre had made great strides in developing new varieties of crop seeds using radiation-induced mutations and micropropagation of economically important crop plants using tissue culture.

He said its efforts had paid rich dividends in improving the tur dal [peas and lentils] crop in Maharashtra besides mutants of various varieties of lentils, bananas, basmati rice, jute and mulberry plants. At Trombay, nearly 100 tissue culture raised banana plants of three varieties were planted. Sample plants of each variety were given to Maharashtra and Gujarat for multi- locational field trials. The trials at Trombay had revealed that these plants mature early and had a significantly higher fruit yield.

Another major achievement was in the area of food preservation where irradiation could help save enormous wastage of perishable vegetables. He quoted the example of onion and said the shelf life of the crop could be increased considerably.

He said a private sector unit had come forward to take up the technology developed by BARC for setting up a radiation sterilisation facility for disposable medical kits. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had recognised the activities of BARC in the nuclear medicine area and it had been exporting isotopes to the UK, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

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MiG-21 Designer on Capabilities

BK1209140094 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 9 Sep 94 p 7

[Text] An upgraded version of the MiG-21 being developed for India will be a close match for the F-16, according to the chief designer of the Mikoyan House in Russia, the maker of the aircraft.

Mr. Rostislav Belyakov, who has been the chief designer at Mikoyan for almost 40 years now and an elusive legend in the business, said in an interview that the MiG-21 project is "one of the most important modernisation undertaken."

The MiG-21 modernisation for India is "top priority" for Mikoyan, Mr. Belyakov said. He was here to attend the Farnborough international air show.

Mikoyan is working on modernising two MiG-21 aircraft for the Indian Air Force, Mr. Belyakov said. "We expect that will be completed in about two years," he said.

Once the new MiG-21 aircraft have been test-flown, production will begin at Hindustan Aeronautics in Bangalore, Mr. Belyakov said.

Mikoyan expects the modified MiG-21 aircraft to "closely match the F-16 in performance," Mr. Belyakov said. Mr. Belyakov was critical of attempts made by some other countries to modernise the MiG-21.

China is reported to have undertaken a project to improve the MiG-21 for Pakistan. Mr. Belyakov did not, however, name any country. The MiG-21 is considered one of the best designed fighter aircraft ever made. Many countries unwilling to abandon it are working to improve it.

"But many of these companies are in no position to do that," Mr. Belyakov said. "You don't upgrade a plane simply by throwing modern systems into it," he said.

"You need a composite hi-tech programme," he said. Mikoyan has advanced "very far" in the MiG-21 project in India, Mr. Belyakov said. The programme is on schedule, he said.

The upgrading project in India is set to give Indian MiGs a tremendous advantage over MiG-21 aircraft in other countries. Mikoyan has sold more than 5,000 MiG aircraft of various kinds all over the world.

Addressing a packed press conference at Farnborough earlier, Mr. Belyakov spoke of several other projects by Mikoyan. One of these, he said, is the modernisation of the MiG-29. A modified version, the MiG-29, is on display at Farnborough. India is believed to be modernising its MiG-29s as well. The new MiG-29M will be exported as MiG-33, Mr. Belyakov said. Upgrading an aircraft meant improvement in many ways like "range, efficiency, weaponry and many other things," Mr. Belyakov said.

"We are also working to develop the MiG-31," he said. Mr. Mikoyan has other projects to keep pace with some of the latest planes, Mr. Belyakov said.

'Limited' Arjun Tank Said Not 'Out of Woods'

BK1009090794 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 5 Sep 94 p 9

[Article by Bidanda M. Chengappa from Bangalore]

[Text] India's indigenous Main Battle Tank (MBT), Arjun, is far from being out of the woods, judging from the criticism levelled by senior and knowledgeable Army officers in print and in private.

Colonel (Retd.) Ravi Pillai in an article, "The MBT Arjun—A Perspective", published in the Indian Defence Review, July 1994, discussed the trials and tribulations confronting the project. He states, "The Arjun, in its present form is a limited instrument incapable of being designated the 'Nation's MBT'. The tank is still more than 70 per cent to 80 per cent imported in value terms. All major systems come from abroad. It is only low technology areas like armour protection, gun and ammunition that are manufactured at home."

According to a recent report in another defence journal, about 50 per cent of total tank funding has been committed to procuring foreign systems and sub-systems. This includes a proposal to accept a Spanish offer to supply fire control systems. Two leading Spanish defence equipment suppliers, the state-owned Empressa Nacional Bazan and Empressa Nacional de Optica, are offering electronic sub-systems in collaboration with Bharat Electronics, Bangalore.

The same report further states, "Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment officials also said Arjun production again will be delayed because of problems with its German MTU 838 first generation engine. Indian Army officials said desert trials in northern India put too much stress on the engine because of sand and excessive heat."

An armoured corps officer said that the Army was also to blame for the inordinate delay and the problems which plague the Arjun. In his view, the Army wanted the tank to incorporate the best features available in other foreign tanks, which was an impossible task. A tank involved trade-offs between armour protection, fire power and mobility, he explains. Tanks are superior or inferior in one or more of these features. For instance, if the focus was on mobility and fire power, then a compromise on armour became imperative. Conversely, an emphasis on fire power would make designers scale down on either mobility or armour.

The officer felt that, with all the delays, the Arjun would no longer be a fighting vehicle featuring contemporary technology by the time it entered service.

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Colonel Pillai writes that an MBT, "must conform to certain basic physical, dimensional and operational characteristics which translate into the user 'General Staff Qualitative Requirement'. These fundamental criteria are not met in the case of the Arjun." He explains that the Arjun is 35 to 40 per cent overweight. It was envisaged as a 40-45 tonne tank, but today weighs 58 tonnes "and has still not stabilised at a given combat weight."

Weight appears to be crucial to tank performance. According to Col. Pillai, "Weight defines tactical height and profile and, by consequence, the inherent passive protection that a tank is capable of generating. The Arjun again rules itself out as an MBT on the basis of passive protection. It looms larger than life."

Col. Pillai praises the imported MTU engine and Renk transmission which are proven subsystems, but criticises interfacing this power train with the indigenous hydropneumatic suspension system. Other sources point out that the suspension system was a significant technological breakthrough but its reported setback could negate even this accomplishment.

Col. Pillai says that the proposal to revert to the "Torsion Bar" suspension system would be futile. "Incorporation of a 'Torsion Bar' suspension is not a simple replacement feature but a major exercise in redesign," he adds.

Another issue raised by Col. Pillai refers to the cost overruns which put the MBT in the Rs. [rupees] 9-10 crores range which makes it double that of the now indigenously productionised T-72 M 1 or its imported variants like the T-72S or T-80.

Col. Pillai points out that the design philosophy was unrealistic and criticises the Army in equal measure. He writes that, "The Army displayed irresponsibility in failing to project, monitor and control and properly communicate their own equipment requirements, outside the internal hallowed portals of Army Commander Conferences. As long as word reached the Chief of Army Staff, the Army felt its job was done."

Commenting on a press report that the Arjun project chief, Mr. Mandiram Natarajan, had threatened to resign following serious differences between DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] and the Army, an Army officer said, "I was expecting this rift to take shape some time but not so soon. The fact that the tank has not been cleared by the users for production indicates that much desires to be done. In the name of national security a screen of secrecy has enabled defence scientists to blunder along which proves expensive to the exchequer."

Mr. Natarajan recently went on record that, "We have made a beginning and our six prototypes are at par with any MBT in the world. The Indian Army should appreciate the effort instead of criticising the Arjun's performance."

Daily Views Development of Early Warning Aircraft

BK1009090494 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by K.V. Ramesh]

[Text] Slowly but steadily, the Indian AEW (Airborne early warning) plane of the distant future is taking shape, regardless of financial constraints.

The technology demonstrator for the aircraft, being developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) in Bangalore, is now grounded at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) for being fitted with an appropriate power plant.

Sources in the defence research establishment say that the technology demonstrator, which is an Avro with a rotary radar dome (radome) mounted over its fuselage, is now waiting to be fitted with an augmented power generating system (APGS) to power the aircraft's systems.

The source insists that the Avro with the radome is but just a demonstrator for testing the various technologies and systems that go to make an AEW aircraft. They are extremely reluctant to discuss it.

The advanced warning aircraft, a comparatively recent concept of airspace control, is designed to provide advance warning of any enemy intruder aircraft and also act as a command and control post in times of conflict, with the help of tracking radar pod arrays mounted in a rotating dome on its body. The radar signals are sent to a bank of electronic computers in the aircraft which convey the signals to ground controllers for action.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union have been the pioneers in the field with the Boeing company of the U.S. with its E-3 Sentry and the Grumman with its E-2C "Hawkeye" having developed and supplied the U.S. Airforce and American allies with the planes.

The Soviet Union has its own version, the IL-76 "Mainstay" (also known as BE-976), but while the U.S. aircraft have been proof-tested in the Gulf war, the Soviet system has not. Both the U.S. and the Soviet versions are known to have not only AEW ability, but also act as command and control posts. The Indian scientists are not so ambitious, but if they are able to develop even a less sophisticated advance warning version, they would make India the third country in the world to produce systems of that class.

With a "seeing" range in the region of 500 km, the AEW aircraft can be a force multiplier, an argument India used forcefully to bar the Pakistanis from acquiring the Grumman "Hawkeye" advance warning aircraft in the mid-eighties. The Indian Government had argued with the U.S. that supply of the aircraft would touch off an arms race.

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With the U.S. engaged in persuading Pakistan to "cap, freeze and roll-back" its nuclear programme, the Indian establishment is convinced that the U.S. administration, if it can circumvent the Symington amendment, will soon come up with gift of sophisticated arms for Pakistan which may include a few AWACS [Advanced Warning and Control System] aircraft.

That is why the Defence research establishment is continuing with its work on a purely indigenous AEW technology demonstrator. An additional factor is the pressure from the air force establishment which is seeking such aircraft. "This does not mean we will have an AEW aircraft in the next few years... maybe it might take even a decade or more... the only advantage of research is that the technologies developed in the process will come in handy elsewhere." The problems are immense. The platform, that is the plane which will carry the radar gear, cannot be the Avro, though the British origin, Indian built old warhorse has lumbered through the tests heroically. With the radome on its back, it has flown in the icy wastes and deserts and over seas close to the coast for chaff and ground clutter studies. In the long run, the platform will have to be an Airbus or a long-range Boeing, because the Avro has the flying stamina of only about four hours which makes it grossly useless for the task.

'Elaborate Security' Noted in Uttar Pradesh

BK1309043594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh [UP], elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order during the daylong bundh [strike] called by the ruling SP-BSP [Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party] coalition today in support of the state government's reservation policy. Essential services, including water and power supply and hospital services, have been kept out of the purview of the bundh. Our Lucknow correspondent reports that vehicles are off the road in the state capital. The state government has ordered the closure of educational institutions till Thursday. Additional security forces have been deployed in sensitive districts to prevent any untoward incident. CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] and the state armed police staged flag marches in different places yesterday.

The chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, who returned from New Delhi yesterday after a meeting with the prime minister, said in Lucknow normalcy and peace will be maintained at all costs. The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, had written a letter to Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav on Sunday suggesting that the bundh call may be withdrawn in the interest of law and order. Yesterday, the prime minister, Mr. Rao, also suggested to the chief minister, when he met him, that he should withdraw the proposed bundh so that a way-out could be found to the crisis following the UP CC-I [Congress-I Committee] decision to withdraw support to the SP-BSP government. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav later told newspersons that he cannot withdraw the bundh call because of some compulsions.

Several political parties have opposed the bundh call. The Congress-I has said it will create a situation of conflict among the people. There is no need for a bundh when all parties have agreed on the 27 percent reservation for other socially and educationally backward classes. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has accused the Uttar Pradesh chief minister of creating a caste war-like situation for political purpose. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has said that the bundh will not help in restoring peace in the state.

'Shoot-at-Sight' in Assam Targets Foreigners

BK1209095794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] A UNI report says the Assam Government has issued shoot-at-sight orders in Tinsukia District against any possible influx of foreign nationals from neighboring Arunachal Pradesh. The chief minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, said in Guwahati that Assam would not be allowed to become a dumping ground of foreign nationals of other states. The government's order came following the Quit Arunachal notice served on foreign nationals by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union. [passage omitted]

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Friday Prayers Leaders Conference

LD1209115494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the revolution, addressed the opening ceremony of the 10th national conference of the Friday prayer leaders this morning. He spoke about Friday prayer as an important and effective source of awareness for the Islamic community and called on the prayer leaders for intelligent encounters against the various methods of the enemy's cultural onslaught.

In his address, the esteemed leader of the revolution expressed assurance regarding the political and economic trends in the country and said: Cultural topics are significant and fundamental issues for the path of the country and the Islamic system.

Regarding the enemy's cultural onslaught against the Islamic system, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The enemies of Islam have turned to a great effort in the field of culture and are using modern technology and massive investment against the Islamic system. However—as the noble Koran says, weak are the plans of the devil—steadfast resistance by the camp of the truth will bring defeat to the enemy.

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Explaining the aims of the enemies of Islam in their cultural onslaught, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution said: Injuring the faith of the youth and tampering the revolutionary culture dominant in social psychology are among the important aims of the calculated cultural onslaught sought by the enemies of Islam against the Muslim people of Iran. In this onslaught they use various cultural notions such as propaganda, arts, books, articles, films, and cultural products and the only means to counter this is the correct and knowledgeable use of the same things.

Emphasizing the need for enlightened and knowledgeable counteroffensive by the Friday prayer leader of the country against the cultural onslaught of the enemies of Islam, the esteemed leader said: Today the Friday prayers is one of the most important means of countering the deviated cultural current and it is therefore necessary that the prayer leaders—fluent, sincere and mentally active—find suitable answers to the enemy and thwart its efforts in reaching its goals.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized the need to maintain the culture of opposition to tyranny [taghut] and said: In the revolutionary and Islamic system of Iran, the struggle against tyranny is one of the fundamental and accepted cultural elements among people. But the enemies of the Iranian nation are trying to plant doubt in the mind of the country's youth—who do not know what the tyrant had done to this nation—and thus take away their ability in countering the culture of the tyrants.

Referring to the damage to the morale of the youth in the field of the struggle in the path of God as one of the sinister aims of the enemies of Islam, the esteemed leader of the revolution said: Destroying the spirit of struggle and the spirit of work in the fields of revolution and construction and thus creating an anti-struggle spirit in its place, as well as causing regret among the worriers in the path of God for their past struggles, are among the important points of attacks by the enemy in its cultural onslaught against the Islamic system. The enemy is trying, through various means, to attack the most important beliefs and cultural foundations.

His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized that one of the aims of the cultural onslaught of the enemy was to weaken the belief in piety and devotion, and said: The aggressors against Islamic system are using their particular methods to weaken the beliefs and are even aiming at the notion of belief in the principle of guardianship, and this goes to show the importance of Friday prayer.

Finally the esteemed leader of the revolution referred to the verses of the noble Koran and pointed out the importance of the participation by the various classes of the Iranian nation in the Friday prayers.

Prior to the address by the esteemed leader of the revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Rasuli Mahallati, the head of the policy formation council of the Friday prayer leaders, reported on the activities of the council for the past year including efforts to reorganize the structure of the council.

President on Ties With U.S., Other Issues

BR1209131294 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Sep 94 pp 4-5

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by Franz-Olivier Giesbert and Claude Lorieux in Tehran; date not given: "Rafsanjani's Challenges"—first paragraph is LE FIGARO introduction]

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has been president of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1989, was a very close aide of Ayatollah Khomeyni during the 1979 revolution and the war against Iraq. It was he who persuaded him to end the fighting. Mr. Rafsanjani, who is 60 years old, talks to the Western press only rarely. He granted LE FIGARO a two-hour interview in his presidential palace in Tehran.

[LE FIGARO] Do you not have the feeling that Iran is rather isolated today?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, no, we are present in all the bodies to which we wish to belong. And we are now continuing our path with the farsightedness with which we chose it.

We do not have the feeling of being isolated. The peoples and nations heed us...Look, during my visits to Africa, Asia, or Central Asia, I have heard people everywhere cry: "Long live the Islamic Republic of Iran!" so much so that I felt as if I was among the populations of Iranian cities.

[LE FIGARO] Are you with those populations and against their governments?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No, for instance, when I went to Senegal, I heard people shout my name and that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I did not have the feeling that they were shouting out against their government. The same is true in Central Asia, in Ashkabad or Tashkent, in Baku, in Turkey, in Pakistan, and in India. As far as governments are concerned, we want to have trusting relations with everybody. But not with the governments of three countries.

[LE FIGARO] Which are they?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The United States and Israel.

[LE FIGARO] And the third? Is it France?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] (Laughs—LE FIGARO editor's note) No, we will work with France. The third is Egypt, because it took the initiative of causing trouble with regard to the Palestinian problem. Aside from those three cases, we do not have any problems. You know, basically, it is you who regard us as rather isolated, but that is not the case. With countries such as China, India, Indonesia, and Russia, which form the major part of the

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world population, we have relations and you do not take account of them. But, because we do not have relations with the United States, you claim that we are alone.

[LE FIGARO] What about Saudi Arabia?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] We do not have any problems with that country.

[LE FIGARO] You also seem isolated because in Europe you are regarded as the Western world's main enemy, because in Europe's eyes, Islamic fundamentalism has replaced Soviet communism...

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] If you think that Islam pursues the ideals of justice, it is true. For instance, the struggle against colonialism, against exclusion, justice for the weak and oppressed, are part of Islam's ideals. And, even before communism, the originality of these ideals stemmed from Islam. It is true to some extent that Islamic fundamentalism will replace communism. There are similarities, for instance the struggle against colonialism, hegemonism, or injustice.

But, at the same time, there are also differences. The communists were campaigning for territorial expansionism and interference in the affairs of others, which does not exist in Islamic fundamentalism. If you observe history, you will recognize that we Islamic fundamentalists have struggled more against communism than the Western countries.

And today, an attempt is being made to put us on the same level as it. It is pure propaganda. Western propaganda is trying to attack Islam in turn, with the same prejudices and the same state of mind which existed with regard to communism. It is a fact which exists in the Western propaganda system.

Those who act in this way need to create an enemy to be able to solve their problems because of their illegitimate interests or to make people forget their internal or other problems. But we believe that they are mistaken and that, with regard to justice, Islam has always been more advanced than communism.

[LE FIGARO] But do you not understand that the murders of Iranian oppositionists in France, in Germany, in Turkey, or in Austria are as revolting and unacceptable as the crimes perpetrated in the same countries by other dictatorships, communist or not?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The cases which are mentioned are inventions. Nobody has ever been able to prove that the Islamic Republic of Iran was linked to all these cases which you mention. Most can probably be explained by score-settling among rival factions of oppositionists. I also wonder whether some people are not trying to create a bad atmosphere between Iran and the Western countries by provocation.

[LE FIGARO] Were not the assassins of Shahpur Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister, close to the Islamic Republic?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] I can really tell you that they were not. We are waiting to see what comes out of the trial. But we know that those people were close to Bakhtiar. There were internal struggles among them. If the case is not given a political slant and if the legal principles and regulations are observed, we can be confident that the judgment will be in our favor. You will see that we had nothing to do with that murder. At all events, the fact that the investigation in France is being prolonged arouses suspicions.

And then, look at the Argentine example. It was proved after two weeks that we were not implicated in the Buenos Aires attack and that the accusations leveled at us were false.

[LE FIGARO] What definition would you give of fundamentalism in the political sphere?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] It is not the same thing in your country and in mine. Moreover, I am not sure that you know what it means. We think that people who are neither on the Right or the Left are moderates. Moreover, the concept of moderation was taken from the Koran, which calls the Muslims a community of the middle way.

[LE FIGARO] You claim that Iran is not isolated, that it is not public enemy number one, that we cannot understand fundamentalism. Is the problem not that Iran and the West now live in two universes which are too different from each other to understand each other? Is it possible to establish contacts between these two different universes at cultural and executive levels?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] We can move closer. Especially because you have ideas about us and you do not know our ideals. Fundamentally, you do not know what we think.

[LE FIGARO] Precisely. Recently, in Algeria, Islamic fundamentalists have been murdering intellectuals, journalists, and teachers. What does the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran think of that?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] This is a point which may enable us to clarify other problems. We are opposed to these massacres in Algeria. On both sides, on the side of the Islamic fundamentalists and on the other side. And we have condemned them several times.

[LE FIGARO] Do you also condemn the murders of French nationals?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Yes, we absolutely condemn violence. We are absolutely opposed to it. But the question to ask, of you French in particular is: "Do you not regard democracy as a serious value? And if democracy exists, why do you support a government which annulled the elections on the pretext that they would give a majority to its Islamic opponents?" Everything started from that, as you well know...

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[LE FIGARO] Do you have a message for the Algerian fundamentalists?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Why do you not want to answer my question?

[LE FIGARO] Because we are journalists, not the French Government's spokesmen.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Do you not want to defend France's prestige in the world?

[LE FIGARO] Of course, we do so in our way, but it is for our diplomats and the foreign minister to explain France's foreign policy.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] (Smiles—LE FIGARO editor's note) I smile because I think that Iranian journalists have more freedom than French journalists. They say what they think. And yet, we are called fundamentalists and the French liberals!

[LE FIGARO] Let us return to our question. What message would you like to send to the Algerian fundamentalists?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] I have a message for the Algerian people and government and for the French Government and I hope that they will hear me via LE FIGARO: "If the Algerians wish to follow a just path, it must be without violence. Like the Iranian people's struggle against the Shah. We overthrew him, not by arms but by marches in which millions of people took part.

But I also have a message for the Algerian Government: At present its actions are directed against its people, as the Shah's government acted against us. It will obviously suffer the same fate.

I have a third message, this time for the French Government. It must stop supporting the Algerian Government. Your country is doing for it what the United States did for the Shah's government. You saw the result: Today the United States is discredited. But the main victims here are freedom and democracy which, unfortunately, are the losers.

[LE FIGARO] Among all the problems between Iran and the Western world, there is also the case of Salman Rushdie, sentenced to death by your religious authorities. Would it not be possible to withdraw or moderate the fatwa pronounced by Imam Khomeyni against this writer?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] What is your speciality?

[LE FIGARO] Journalists have many...

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] When you have a speciality you follow the rules. Imam Khomeyni pronounced his fatwa as an expert on religious rules. In a way, he delivered a legal opinion, which we call fatwa. In this sphere, an expert cannot undo what another has decided, from the viewpoint of religious law. Instead of regarding the problem from this angle, you made it a propaganda issue, whereas this fatwa features in many of our religious books, and in books published 1,000 years ago. You do not want this story to end...

[LE FIGARO] How can it end?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] By silence.

[LE FIGARO] Do you mean that you are prepared to forget all about it and grant a pardon?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] There is no question of a pardon, because the fatwa was pronounced against him. It cannot be revoked. And then, it is not in the West's interests to protect an individual who has outraged a billion Muslims.

[LE FIGARO] In short, Salman Rushdie still faces death.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] According to Islamic law, yes. You have similar cases too.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that the fundamentalists in Bangladesh were right to demand the head of Taslima Nasreen who is demanding a new interpretation of the Koran, more favorable to women?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] I do not know about this problem. But I know that she has denied the statements attributed to her.

[LE FIGARO] Is a moderate reading of the Koran possible?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] There are many differences of opinion in the interpretation of the Koran, although the text is the same. Of course, the same is true of any other holy book.

[LE FIGARO] Is it true that there is a fatwa banning Iranian women from watching football matches?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No such fatwa exists in Iran.

[LE FIGARO] But this is the real situation...

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No. No decision has been made on the subject.

[LE FIGARO] Are adulterous women still stoned in Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No. That practice does not exist in our country. It has been invented to harm us.

[LE FIGARO] Is there a ban on wearing neckties and bow ties in your country?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No. In our country people can wear bow ties or neckties, like you. As you see, there are people in Iran who wear neckties or bow ties.

[LE FIGARO] Is the shari'ah applied as rigorously in Iran as in Saudi Arabia?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] We are Shi'ites. They are Sunnis. So, we are different. But our life is governed by the

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shari'ah. Look, my conversation with you is an application of the shari'ah...We want to express our views, and our whole life is founded on the shari'ah.

[LE FIGARO] When Iran is accused of orchestrating international terrorism, what is your answer?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] (Smiles—LE FIGARO editor's note). That is what Mr. Clinton says.

[LE FIGARO] Others say it.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Do you see the building over there? (He pointed to a white building hidden among the trees—LE FIGARO editor's note) That is where the Mojahedin's bomb (Footnote) (Mojahedin-e Khalq, the armed opposition movement) exploded, killing our president and our prime minister. The people who committed that outrage left Iran in a plane which they had stolen. They then went to France, where they were welcomed at a military airport. You then held official meetings for them. The British Government placed a television network at the disposal of those known terrorists. They frequent the United Nations. They are seen in the U.S. Congress. As a result of which it is we who are denounced as the protectors of terrorism, whereas you Western countries present yourselves as the enemies of terrorism. If we welcomed in Iran the separatist terrorists who are killing you in Corsica, what would you say? Meanwhile, you will never find a single case in which you will be able to prove that we have supported terrorism.

[LE FIGARO] So, how do you explain the fact that the G-7 summit in Naples and the UN subcommission on the protection of minorities asked Iran to stop supporting terrorism?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Our criticism of the Western governments is that they made unfounded accusations. The proof is, I repeat, that you cannot find a single case in which we are involved...

[LE FIGARO] What about the murder of Shahpur Bakhtiar?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The case is going to come to court. But do you not think that if any document implicating us had been found, it would not hurriedly have been published?

[LE FIGARO] Why are you still being accused? You know the saying: "There is no smoke without fire..."

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The British also say that we support the actions of the Irish. I repeat, the Western world needs a bugaboo. It resents the fact that we condemn injustice, the exploitation of peoples, and the profits accumulated by the rich countries at the Third World's expense.

[LE FIGARO] Since the fall of communism, we have been living in a monopolar world, dominated by the United States. More and more countries are accepting this situation. Do you think you can form an anti-American front?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The world will not so easily become a monopolar world. Do not forget Europe, China, and India. They are not prepared to accept that the United States should behave like the ruler of the world. We refuse to allow it to impose its solutions by force.

[LE FIGARO] It is not using force to promote the peace process in the Near East which you condemn...but less and less clearly.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] In this case, force is still there. But it is concealed. We have always said that this was not a just peace because the Palestinians' rights were not recognized. We still say the same thing today.

[LE FIGARO] It is the start of a peace process that Messrs. Peres, Rabin, and 'Arafat set in motion. If it succeeds, the Palestinians will some day be able to return to their land.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Do you think that room can be found there for 4 million Palestinians?

[LE FIGARO]...Maybe in Jordan.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] That will not be their homeland. What would you say if France were still occupied by the Nazis, if you had left your country and were to be told: "Yes, the Germans can stay"?

The Palestinians must be able to return. After that, if there is still room for the Jews, then they can stay.

[LE FIGARO] Does the State of Israel have the right to exist?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The State of Israel is illegal, just as the Nazis' presence in France was.

[LE FIGARO] What, then, do you suggest to the Jews? That they be thrown into the sea?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] No, I want them to return to wherever they came from.

[LE FIGARO] But before being in Russia, they were in Palestine.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] I do not have the same view of history as you do. They did not set off from Palestine. Some Iranian Jews went there too. The Jews of Ethiopia went there too. As far as I am concerned, the Russian Jews are Russians. Their origins are not in Palestine.

[LE FIGARO] But they did set off from Palestine.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] At the end of British colonialism in Palestine, 50 years ago, the Jews constituted 6 percent of the population there. Put yourself properly in the

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Palestinians' shoes. Human equity is more important than these political considerations. Try always to adopt a human approach to things.

[LE FIGARO] In the UN Security Council, some countries, including France and China, have called for recognition of the fact that Iraq has made progress in the implementation of its resolutions. The Americans opposed it. Who do you think is right?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] The problem is that the United States has the last word. Clearly, Iraq made a mistake in attacking Kuwait. It had to be punished. But instead of punishing Saddam Husayn and his entourage, the Iraqi people—already oppressed by the leaders—have been punished. This proves that America had no humanitarian purpose in the war in the Persian Gulf. It simply wanted a military presence in the region, and it obtained it. France and its other allies allowed themselves to be duped.

[LE FIGARO] By lifting the embargo, the international community would help the Iraqi people, but Saddam Husayn too.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Some thought must be given to the Iraqi people. It is unacceptable that they continue to live in this atmosphere of repression. For my part, I can do nothing on my own. Those who cast the stone must recover it.

[LE FIGARO] Several countries geographically close to Iran either have nuclear weapons or are in a position to acquire them—Pakistan, Israel, India, and so forth. When will there be an Iranian bomb?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] There are many countries whose neighbors have the bomb and that are prepared not to possess it themselves. For instance, France has the nuclear weapon, but as far as I know, that does not worry Spain or Italy. As far as I am concerned, the nuclear bomb is the weapon of the madman. And we have no intention of joining this diabolical race.

[LE FIGARO] You help the Bosnian Muslims. Now that the conflict seems to be about to resume with even greater force, what do you intend to do?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] We have supplied them with gas and food...

[LE FIGARO]...and weapons, too.

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] It was said that one of our aircraft was loaded with weapons. Since there are UN representatives there and Bosnia is completely encircled, how can we send weapons there? After the inquiry it was discovered that it was untrue. We have been the object of many such lies.

[LE FIGARO] When you were elected president of the Islamic Republic, you raised some hopes. First, among businessmen, who expected more economic flexibility. And also among the population, who expected an improvement in their living standards. Now people are disillusioned. Why?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] I started with a program. I said what would happen. We have almost achieved our objectives. There were many difficulties then, most of which have been resolved. Now we have no major problems. We have rebuilt our country after the long war with Iraq. Our exports have quadrupled. But I can well understand people having hopes. I hope that with the implementation of the second five-year plan the other difficulties will be resolved.

[LE FIGARO] You have recently had a number of riots in the major cities, such as Arak, Mashhad, and Shiraz. The population is starting to show its dissatisfaction. Does this not worry you?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] What about your farmers? Are they not blocking all the roads? You have plenty of problems in France. Perhaps they are even more serious. Be that as it may, in our country they do not have political origins. Here people protest because the municipality decides to demolish houses that were constructed illegally. There people demonstrate because some provinces want autonomy. And furthermore, all these events are distorted in the West. In any case, we are a long way away from the Los Angeles riots, in which the blacks rebelled against racial segregation.

[LE FIGARO] Are there things that you like in the West?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] It must be acknowledged that Western technology is making great progress. In your countries the sciences are more advanced. But pride is the fault of Westerners, who demand more than their due in the world, which entails many negative effects.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think the dangers are more likely to come from within or from abroad?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] We have no fundamental problems with regard to the administration of the country. Parliament has never wanted to trouble the government, either during the previous legislature or during the present one. There are differences of viewpoint.

In Iran viewpoints are not expressed as they are in France, where all the members of a party must express the party line in Parliament. Everyone is free to express his own views. In Iran democracy means that everyone can express himself independently.

[LE FIGARO] Are there so many differences between Islam and Christianity?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] In the West Christianity does not govern. You say that religion is the relationship between mankind and God and that Christianity must not deal with essential issues. In your countries religion is confined to an individual's relationship with God. In social relations you do not want to grant religion a free hand. In the West the family has been very much

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weakened, which distresses us greatly. In the East, however, it is much more solid, and human feelings are more powerful. And the material sciences are more powerful in the West.

[LE FIGARO] Do you consider Christianity a good religion?

[Hashemi-Rafasanjani] Of course, because it comes from heaven. For us, Jesus and Mary are saints, like our prophet and Fatimah, his daughter. Islam is in fact complete Christianity.

Radio Criticizes West's Reaction

LD1309114794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The reflection of our president's interview with the French daily LE FIGARO is the title of today's second political commentary to which we draw your attention:

The statements by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani with the French daily LE FIGARO has been extensively reflected upon in the world media. In this interview, in reply to the questions asked by the editor-in-chief of this daily, our country's president explained and justified the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on various international issues, Iran's foreign policy, and a number of domestic issues.

Among the various issues discussed in this two-hour long interview, two have been reflected in the Western media more than others.

These mass media in a tangible way referred to the advice of our president to the French Government on ending Paris support for the ruling government of Algeria as the main part of the president's comments, and called it as a sign of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in mediation in Algeria's crisis.

A number of these news sources have gone further and also considered as possible the existence of secret talks between the governments of Iran and France.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his interview with daily LE FIGARO, having criticized the continuation of violence in Algeria, warned the French government of the consequences of the support given to the military rulers of Algeria and of confrontation with the Algerian nation.

Our country's president, in another part of his comments that were devoted to explaining Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign relations, having stressed on fact that Islamic Iran does not recognize the existence of a thing called Israel, considered as baseless the rumors which have been spread concerning Iran's willingness and efforts to establish ties with America and the Egyptian regime.

This part of his statement had relatively extensive coverage in the Western mass media.

But, the supplementary part of the comments which stressed the good and extensive relations of the Islamic Republic with majority of the world countries and the respect that the government and Muslim nation of Iran enjoys among the world nation and proves the failure of America in isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been reflected less by the mass media. Similarly, they also did not cover well the rejections of Western accusations on Iranian support for international terrorism.

In a final evaluation it seems that the officials of the propaganda apparatus and also the political leaders in the West prefer to see the issues only through their own viewpoint and hear things the way they want to.

This in fact is the reason that so far a deep understanding of and belief in the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various spheres has not been achieved in the West. If in certain cases such a picture has been received, it has been strained as a result of feedback of negative propaganda.

The solution to this issue is the most important step in improvement of relations with the limited Western countries who are unhappy about their unstable relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistani Delegation Visits, Holds Talks

Comments on Arrival

LD1009181894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistani President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari arrived in Tehran this afternoon and was welcomed by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Mehrabad airport.

During his trip President Leghari will hold negotiations on the process of cooperation, means of expanding bilateral relations within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] as well as regional and international issues.

On his arrival President Leghari said:

[Begin Leghari recording, in English] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to express my gratitude to Allah for giving me and the members of my delegation this opportunity to come and visit your great and brotherly country. [end recording]

Relations between the two countries are very good and friendly. While the Islamic world is under the pressure of hegemonist powers, we think further cooperation and consultations is necessary between the two countries for solving the existing problems in the region and the Islamic world.

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The Pakistani president said: With the ending of the cold war Islamic countries are now the target of greater pressure and aggression of the powers. These confrontations are not only with the enemies of Islam but also with those who don't have a correct understanding of Islam. There is a need to stand against them through a unity armed with technology and modern sciences.

Referring to the issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and Azerbaijan as problems of the Islamic world, Leghari said: Islamic countries must speak to the world through unity and cooperation and through international organizations, including the Islamic Conference and Economic Cooperation Organization.

President Rafsanjani spoke about the level of cooperation between the two countries and issues of discussions with the Pakistani president. He said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I thank his excellency the Pakistani president for accepting our invitation and coming here with a high ranking delegation. The presence of the president is an excellent occasion to discuss the many issues of interest to both nations. Pakistan and Iran are models among neighboring nations which have full understanding between their peoples and the governments. In our trip to Pakistan we felt we were in Iran.

There are many issues for discussion between us and Pakistan: cultural, scientific, political, and special issues regarding our neighborliness. Issues of the Islamic world—as his excellency pointed out—and points of crisis in Kashmir, Bosnia, Karabakh, Palestine, Iraq, the Persian Gulf, and Indian ocean are among the issues of concern to both nations—and of course Afghanistan which is an immediate issue for us and Pakistan.

Important projects of cooperation have long been a matter of importance for us and we hope they will be advanced in this trip. In the ECO—where Pakistan, Iran and Turkey were the vanguards—is one of the fields for cooperation between us neighbors and we must try to advance the ECO goals in this trip. There are also other issues which will be announced at the end of the trip. [end recording]

Islamabad Reports Talks

BK1109151094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani have held their first round of talks in Tehran. President Leghari briefed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the worsening situation in occupied Kashmir where Indian forces are committing brutalities against the innocent Kashmiri people, violating their human rights. He also informed the Iranian leader about Pakistani efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He pointed out that the Kashmir issue was threatening peace in South Asia. He said the struggle in occupied Kashmir is indigenous and is aimed at securing the right of self determination for the Kashmiri people. Pakistan is only extending moral, political, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris engaged in this struggle. The president also told his Iranian counterpart that besides Kashmir, Pakistan is also deeply concerned about the situations in Bosnia, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said military force is not a solution to any conflict. He supported settling the Kashmir dispute on the basis of UN resolutions, which demand a plebiscite. The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues. During the talks, views were exchanged on means and sources to increase bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the economic field. The Iranian president reiterated that his country is willing to cooperate with brotherly country Pakistan in all fields. He said Iran is very keen to promote trade relations with Pakistan for mutual benefit.

Radio Pakistan's special correspondent Zulfiqar Jafery, who is accompanying the president for coverage of the visit, reports that the two leaders also discussed setting up an oil refinery in Pakistan with Iranian collaboration. The supply of gas from Iran to Pakistan was also discussed. According to the program, the two leaders are scheduled to have their second round of talks tomorrow.

Soon after his arrival in Tehran yesterday, the president called on his Iranian counterpart Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the meeting, he said Muslim countries should forge unity to foil the aggressive designs of anti-Islamic forces in Kashmir, Bosnia, Palestine, and Azerbaijan.

Leghari Addresses Majles

LD1109121294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari attended an open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles today, and was acquainted with the parliamentary processes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the legislating activities of the representatives of the people.

In a statement made at the open session and attended by the people's deputies, he described the Majles as a symbol of true democracy in Iran and a crystallization of the strength and sovereignty of the people.

The Pakistani president, praising the valiant resistance of the revolutionary people of Iran during the holy defense period, called for the continued expansion of visits by the two countries' high-ranking officials for the purpose of strengthening bilateral ties and the bonds between the two nations.

Referring to the political and economic situation in Pakistan and the government policies for the development of that country, Leghari stressed the need for further cooperation between the two countries of Iran

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and Pakistan within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the Islamic Conference Organization. He said: For the purpose of creating unanimity on mobilizing the tremendous economic resources of the Islamic nation, there is a need for the formation of a creative response, the establishment of an effective economic cooperation mechanism among Islamic states, and the strengthening of the social stance regarding the maintenance and safeguarding of commercial and economic interests.

The Pakistani president, referring to the depressing political panorama of the world and the existing crises in the world of Islam, including Kashmir, Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: If the world of Islam does not realize its grave situation and does not bravely stand against the tyranny and bullying of the powers through unity and solidarity, it will be more vulnerable and have aggressive action taken against it.

He referred to Iran and Pakistan as the proud inheritors of the torch-bearers of humanitarian and peaceful traditions, and considered the further strengthened fraternal bonds of the two countries to be a source of peace and stability in the region.

According to our correspondent's report, the Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri, elaborating on the role of the Majles in realizing the objectives of the Islamic system, embarked on an explanation of the importance of equal rights for all groups within the Iranian nation—be they Shi'a or Sunni and the religious minorities—in the Islamic Republic system as well as the respect for their right to vote and their views. He expressed the hope that the two countries of Iran and Pakistan, having many common links, act on their great mission in the region with cooperation.

The Majles speaker, stressing Iran's decisive stance regarding the issues of the region and the world of Islam, including the Kashmir issue, pointed out the need for bilateral cooperation—including cooperation in the parliamentary field—and called for the formation of an Islamic states inter-parliamentary conference.

Oil Ministers Discuss Cooperation

LD1109204494 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—The visiting oil minister of Pakistan Anwar Saif Khan [name as received] in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i on Sunday [11 September] indicated the interest of his government to develop bilateral relations.

He said his government is willing to collaborate with Iran at the international scene and on oil and economic areas.

Saif Khan said relations with Iran is especially important for Pakistan.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i welcomed closer cooperation between the two countries saying that their collaboration especially within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) can be very fruitful.

The two officials also discussed topics in relation to the designing and erecting of an oil refinery in Pakistan by the Islamic Republic of Iran, a project for pumping the natural gas of Iran to Pakistan and thence to India by a trunkline, and increase in the export of crude oil and liquified gas to Pakistan.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Iran is ready and willing to build a plant for making lubricants, bitumen, and lay a trunkline for conduiting Iranian gas for use in Pakistan consistent with the highest international standards.

Leghari Speaks to Media Officials

NC1209104294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Pakistani president has called for the greater broadening of Tehran-Islamabad ties. According to IRNA, Farooq Ahmad Leghari held a meeting with a number of directors-general of publications, IRNA, Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He elaborated, saying: Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have extremely close and coordinated positions in their respective foreign policies and believe that the solution to the main problems confronting the Islamic world lies in strengthening cooperation among Islamic countries.

He said the problems of Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Afghanistan were the focus of his talks with the Iranian officials. Regarding his meeting with the great leader, the Pakistani president said: In my meeting with the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, I learned much from his sagacity. I am extremely pleased that I had the opportunity to meet His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

On the subject of the cultural relations between Tehran and Islamabad and the popularization of the Persian language in Pakistan, Farooq Leghari stated: In the not too distant past, the Persian language was very popular in the region. However, it is regrettable that we have forfeited this bounty at present, and we have been deprived of a vast treasure trove of our poetry and literature. We will strive to revive the Persian language in Pakistan.

Commenting on the low level of the economic relations between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Farooq Leghari said: Despite the wonderful political relations between the two countries, the economic relations have not made much progress. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has issued instructions for the establishment of an experts' committee in this regard.

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In answer to a question on the presence of some groups that are seeking to sow discord among the Muslims in Pakistan, the Pakistani president asserted: Islamabad is determined to combat the groups that are trying to foment differences and agitation.

Holds Further Talks With President

LD1209104494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan reached agreements on fresh cooperation on oil and gas, commerce, industry, agriculture, politics, and security, at the second round of talks between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Faruq Ahmad Leghari, the president of Pakistan.

At the talks, which were held today on the last day of the high-ranking Pakistani delegation's stay in our country, first the chairmen of the separate crude oil and gas, commerce, industry, agriculture, political, and security committees submitted reports on the talks held and agreements reached at those committees. These agreements were on the transfer of gas and fuels from Iran to Pakistan, the erection of a joint refinery in that country, cooperation on exploration, the expansion of trade and the creation of mini-markets on the borders between the two countries, the export of bulldozers by Iran to Pakistan, regional technical cooperation on agriculture. There was also the appraisal of issues relating to Afghanistan, Kashmir, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Palestine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, border cooperation in the fight against the production and contraband of narcotics, and the strengthening of the two countries' border committee, and this report was accepted by the Iranian and Pakistani presidents.

In a speech, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that attaining that extensive level of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in a short time testified to the resolve and wish of the authorities and people of the two Muslim and neighboring countries to expand cooperation.

Emphasizing the role of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, in increasing commercial and economic cooperation between the member countries, he stressed the necessity for the expansion of communication lines, railways, shipping, and the creation of an ECO development bank, to boost the financial strength of member countries.

Leghari said he was glad about the sincere cooperation between the Iranian and Pakistani delegations in reaching the agreements. He said: The potentials for the expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries are extensive. During this trip we were able to utilize some of those potentials towards the expansion of economic, commercial, technical, and industrial cooperation. We hope that that trend would increase further in the future.

Leghari said: Pakistan believes that, in addition to deepening its cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it should also increase its cooperation with ECO member countries. That would necessitate the expansion of communication lines and air and land routes. He added: The connecting of Pakistan to Turkey and the ECO economic network via Zahedan and Kerman is of vital importance to us.

Thanking Iran for taking steps to set up a shipping and air link between ECO member countries, he said creating a joint commercial development bank between that organization's member countries was a necessity and stressed the importance of its realization.

He described Iran's industrial progress in recent as outstanding. Stressing the importance of technical cooperation between the two countries he expressed the hope that the export of our country's industrial goods to Pakistan would increase.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1209181094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] At the end of the Pakistani president's official visit to our country, a memorandum of understanding was signed on cooperation in constructing an oil refinery in Pakistan and the construction of a multisource gas pipeline [as heard], which can be used by a number of countries.

Also, the situation of drug transport and smuggling and the activities of criminal elements on the border of the two countries were discussed. Both sides called for effective and practical measures to eradicate those elements.

The joint communique issued at the end of the official visit of the Pakistani president to our country also says: The presidents of Iran and Pakistan have agreed that political steps should be taken so that the Izmir Pact, the Quetta Agreement, and the Istanbul Declaration are implemented effectively.

The presidents of the two countries also agreed that the continuing war of fratricide in Afghanistan was a most unfortunate occurrence, since it had led to a great deal of suffering for the Afghan people. Stressing once again the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the two sides called for a just political solution to the crisis based on the wishes of the people of that country.

Furthermore, both sides underlined the importance of the third round of Tajik peace talks under UN auspices in Islamabad.

The two presidents condemned the aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, the occupation of Azerbaijanis' territory, and the expulsion of thousands of Azerbaijanis.

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The two countries' presidents expressed their concern about the lack of action of the UN regarding the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and called for the implementation of the measures agreed on at the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers in Islamabad. They announced their readiness to implement those measures and emphasized the need to continue the UN economic boycott of Serbia until a final solution was in place.

In the communique, the two sides expressed their adherence to a just and all-encompassing solution to the Middle East problem, which enabled the Palestinian people to form their own independent country.

Leghari Comments on Visit

LD1209202694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari ended his official visit to our country today. I draw your attention to our correspondent's report:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president of Pakistan left Tehran this afternoon after three days of talks on regional and international issues and bilateral relations. He was seen off officially by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before his departure from Tehran, in an interview with the Central News Unit, Mr. Leghari said: The two countries have strengthened their resolve to implement their previous agreements. We have common and joint views on regional and world issues.

The Pakistani president said: With the wisdom of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran—especially the honorable President Hashemi-Rafsanjani—all the obstacles preventing the expansion of bilateral relations have been removed. Now the two nations face the clear prospect of stronger bonds and greater cooperation and coordination. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani president spoke of the new agreements reached between the two countries in the fields of economics, industry, and trade, pointing out the vast common grounds for greater expansion of ties within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO. He added: We agreed on cooperation regarding the construction of an oil refinery in Pakistan and the construction of a multi-source gas pipeline that can be used by a number of countries. The documents for this have been signed.

The two countries have also stressed the need to implement effective and practical measures to eradicate drug smuggling and the activities of criminals on the border of the two countries.

President on Importance of ECO, Pakistani Ties

LD1209202894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was interviewed by our correspondent on the outcome of [Pakistani] President Farooq Ahmad Leghari's visit to our country. I draw your attention to his remarks:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Mr. Leghari's visit was short, but we managed to take important decisions during our highly intensive talks. In addition to discussing critical regions of the Islamic world, where we enjoyed unity of opinion almost in all of the discussions, we spent plenty of time discussing our bilateral relations.

The outcome of our talks in the oil and gas sectors and energy in general, can become firm foundations for extensive cooperation in the future.

Our cooperation in the commercial field is vast. We buy rice from Pakistan and they buy heavy machinery from us. We can exchange many consumer goods, for which a memorandum of understanding was compiled. In our opinion, grounds for cooperation in the technical and industrial fields are very vast and all-embracing. These grounds were investigated and will open a new chapter in cooperation.

Iran and Pakistan attach great importance to the region's security and the fight against evil deeds of drug-traffickers and some border security matters. These were discussed during our talks.

We held long discussions on promoting the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. The two sides believe that the ECO is a good base for regional cooperation. It can become one of the most powerful organizations of the region. We hope that during our planned visit to Pakistan next year—to attend the ECO summit—the subject of ECO would demonstrate its importance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Iranian-Turkish Cooperation Accord Said Aimed at Kurds

NC1209144694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Station commentary: "The Recent Agreements Between Iran and Turkey"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, according to reports from the news agencies, in the past few days representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey signed an accord after a 10-day session. Under the accord the two governments will increase their cooperation against the armed opposition of Iran and Turkey and in gathering information regarding their respective opponents.

Gholam Hoseyn Bolandiyan, one of the members of the Iranian delegation participating in these sessions, described the accord as a major step toward the broadening of Iranian-Turkish relations. Some time ago Iran and Turkey took steps to establish a joint security commission, and since the beginning of the year they

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have stepped up their joint intelligence operations against the combatant Kurdish forces in Turkey and Iranian Kordestan.

The cooperation between the regimes ruling over Kordestan against the Kordish people's movement goes back to the distant past. However, the level of this cooperation—in view of the expansion and growth of the Kurdish movement or [word indistinct]—in any one of these countries was different and [words indistinct].

The Kurdish people's movement proliferated in one of these countries and brought that country face to face with a difficult situation. In such circumstances, the ruling regime of that country embarked on suppressing its Kurdish movement and sought the cooperation of the governments in the neighboring countries. In the past 10 to 15 years, the Kurdish people's movement in the various parts of Kurdistan has shown greater progress. In the past, the dimensions of the Kurdish people's movement expanded and indicated greater growth, but in recent years the movement has proliferated remarkably in Iran, Turkey, and Iraq and has elicited important attention from the international community.

The continuation of the growth and progress of the Kurdish people's movement simultaneously in Turkey and Iran assailed the ruling governments in these countries with much concern. In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, Turkey permitted its allied forces to use the bases in that country for support of the Iraqi Kurds. Even though this action may be construed as a support of the Iraqi Kurds, it did not detract from the Turkish government's sensitivity toward the Kurdish movement in the country and the situation that had arisen in Iraqi Kurdistan and did not prevent its cooperation with Iran and Syria for the suppression of the Kurdish people.

In this manner, the Turkish Government strove—with the cooperation of the Governments of Iran and Syria—to impede the growth of the Kurdish movement in general and the success of the experiment in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular. It is for this purpose that the foreign ministers of the three countries of Iran, Turkey, and Syria meet once every three months in one of their capitals and discuss, in their words, the situation in Iraq and in Iraqi Kurdistan without the participation of a representative from the Iraqi Government or the Iraqi Kurds.

It is interesting that the Islamic Republic and Turkey have not contented themselves with this; they also have sought to cooperate with one another, outside this framework, on ensuring what they describe as security. In the month of Dey [22 December-20 January] in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] during the visit by the clerical regime's first vice president to Turkey, the Islamic Republic and Turkey signed an agreement against the Kurdish people's movement.

Even though the substance of the agreement between these two countries regarding the Kurdish people's movement in Iranian Kordestan and Turkish Kurdistan has not been divulged, in view of the threats implemented by the officials of these two countries against the Kurdish movement one can gauge the extent of this cooperation and the issues agreed upon.

Last year the clerical regime's Interior Minister Besharati visited Kordestan and described the year 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] the year of security in Kordestan and the decimation of the so-called counterrevolutionaries. He stated: In addition to the forces currently stationed in Kordestan, other special forces will be deployed.

Madame Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister who visited Diyarbakir last year, uttered similar threats and announced that in the coming months the belligerent Kurds will be suppressed. In addition, in the past few months the news agencies have repeatedly announced that Turkey and Iran will extradite their respective dissidents. In this regard, the Turkish Government has arrested and expelled some Iranian refugees to the Islamic Republic. Likewise, the Islamic Republic of Iran had extradited a number of anti-regime Turkish Kurds to that country.

Thus, it is evident that the recent agreements will increase this cooperation against the Kurdish people's movement. It appears that Iran and Turkey have waived all their mutual differences to suppress the Kurdish people. However, if it were true that with such cooperation, and overt and covert collusion, the Kurdish people's movement could be eliminated, there should have been no trace of this movement today and it should not have proliferated so extensively that it could become a cause for the displeasure and ire of the officials of these two countries.

The time when some countries could collaborate with one another to deprive a nation of its legitimate rights has ended, and the freedom-seeking struggle of the Kurdish people will continue, without any doubt, until the vindication of their legitimate aspirations. As in the past, all plots and collusion will be relegated to the dustbin of history.

New Ambassador to Kuwait 'To Bolster' Relations

LD1209223294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2012 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 12 Sep—In press statements published here today, Iran's newly appointed Ambassador to Kuwait Gholamali San'ati confirmed his country's intention to bolster diplomatic ties and trade exchange with Kuwait.

In an interview with the weekly KEYHAN HAVA'I he said: As a newly appointed ambassador, I would like to inform the Kuwaiti Government that I will be going there with a firm will to bolster bilateral relations.

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San'ati, who is a former deputy foreign minister for financial and administrative affairs, added that Iran considered Kuwait a country friend with which it intended to expand political and economic ties.

He said that Iran was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Kuwait from Britain in 1961 and to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Iran had also contributed to putting out fires in Kuwaiti oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqi aggressors.

San'ati called on the UN secretary general to take the appropriate measures to force Iraq to pay compensation to Iran and Kuwait, which were victims of Saddam Husayn's aggressions. San'ati is to take over from the previous ambassador, Hoseyn Sadeqi.

Islamic Countries Seen as Successful in ICPD

NC1309081894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] It has been reported from Cairo that after extensive debates and opposition from Islamic countries, as well as some Christian countries, a segment of the text incorporated in the draft of the final resolution has been changed. According to this report, the wishes of the Islamic countries—that the implementation of the Cairo conference declaration should be based on the principle of the sovereignty of countries, their national laws, ethical, cultural, and religious values—have been included in the final declaration.

Despite the opposition of the Western countries, this request has been approved in the document. In addition, with Iran's insistence and the support by many other governments, certain terms and connotations that were present in the draft of the Cairo conference and that had generated an inappropriate interpretation and a divergence of opinion regarding the statement of the conference have been deleted from the final text.

Regarding the controversial and conflicting points raised even before the opening of the conference, the main issue was on freedom to abort fetuses, which encountered the opposition of the Islamic countries, some Latin American countries, as well as the Vatican. The head of the Iranian representative delegation expressed his opposition to abortion, which is permitted only if the life of the mother is in danger, and even then under medical supervision for the mother.

On this topic, an amendment was included in the final document of the conference and after protracted debates and intensive two-day-long consultations, a text was approved in which abortion was ruled out as a contraceptive measure regardless of circumstances.

In any case, in view of the fact that 182 countries are present at the Cairo conference and various opinions on the ways and means of stemming an increase of population were presented, the decision was inherently significant. From this vantage point, ever since the conference was inaugurated, Iran and some other Islamic countries have sought to advocate the profound Islamic viewpoint with regard to family planning, individual rights, and women's rights in particular, based on an international, wise, effective, and judicious perspective in supporting the family and women.

There is no doubt that the final statement that will be disseminated today at the conclusion of the Cairo conference will incorporate this reality.

First Phase of Nuclear Center Said Operational

NC1109102594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The first phase of the Bonab Atomic Energy Research Center in East Azerbaijan province will become operational by the end of the current [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1995]. This was stated by Reza Amrollahi, the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization and vice president, who inspected the center yesterday. He added: Since construction work began on the project in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992], some 4.2 billion rials in rials and a total of 2 billion rials worth of foreign exchange have been allocated to it. This year too, 5.5 billion rials have also been allocated.

Amrollahi pointed out that the Bonab Atomic Energy Research Center will be used for agricultural purposes. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue such projects with the objective of finding peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Bonab Atomic Energy Research Center will become fully operational by the end of the second five-year plan.

'Kheybar-73' Land-Sea Maneuvers Held

First Phase

LD1109130994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] A land-sea maneuver—Kheybar-73—began this morning in the coastal waters of the Persian Gulf.

In these maneuvers, which encompass 5,940 square miles of the coastal waters between the Kharq Island and Bandar Dayyer, the valiant forces of the first, second, and third regions of the Revolution Guard Corps Navy and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the brave Air Force members of the Iranian Navy are participating.

In these maneuvers operational forces will demonstrate their capability to safeguard and protect the sea borders

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of the Islamic homeland by using naval personnel-carriers, ships, and rocket-launching frigates, fast boats, fighter-bomber and transport planes and drones.

The land-sea Kheybar-73 maneuvers will be carried out in five stages. During the first stage all operations concerning the briefing of the forces and the final testing of communication and equipment were carried out successfully.

This is the Central News Unit in Bushehr.

Second Stage

LD1209114294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The second phase of the amphibious Kheybar-73 exercises, with the participation of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was staged this morning between Khark Island coastal waters and the port of Dayyer.

According to a Central News Unit report from Bushehr, the forces participating in this phase, by transferring equipment to assault vessels, prepared to take position and carry out operations in the area of the exercises.

The first phase of the amphibious Kheybar-73 exercises was staged yesterday. The forces taking part in the exercises, using troop ships, missile-launching warships, small battleships, fast boats, fighter-bombers, and transport planes, demonstrate their defensive capability to safeguard our homeland's coastal waters.

Third Phase

LD1309103994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The third phase of the combined amphibious exercise, codenamed Kheybar-73, began in the Persian Gulf waters this morning. In this phase of the exercise the courageous combatants of the Guards Corps and the navy boarded floating vessels, and navy warships and frigates began moving in formation. The helicopters performed landing and taking off operations from the decks of the moving warships. Reconnaissance operations were carried out against vessels of a hypothetical enemy. The access sea ways were opened by clearing mines of the hypothetical enemy to enable passage of the marines to attack positions of the enemy. The vessels then entered the area of the waters controlled by the hypothetical enemy. The deployment area of the hypothetical enemy was surrounded to prevent the enemy moving his units.

Majles Speaker on Political, Economic Issues

NC0909092494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Aug 94 p 6

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles and member of the Central Council of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association, by an unidentified RESALAT correspondent "during Government Week" in Tehran]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [RESALAT] We are celebrating Government Week and want to ask you, as the speaker of the Majles and one of the effective members of the Central Council of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association, to what extent you think the government of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has succeeded in implementing its plans.

[Nateq-Nuri] We did not have such a prestigious government before our honorable brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani took over as president. One of the reasons is his rare and outstanding personality.

We are proud that the head of our government is a revolutionary combatant who has suffered ordeals and endured punishment in the idolatrous era [reference to the time of the shah]. He still bears the scars of the idolatrous era and the malicious assassination attempt on him after the revolution. [passage omitted]

The work that has been done in the fields of oil, petrochemicals, and steel and the steps that have been taken to harness water resources and develop agriculture are a source of pride. The project that was left incomplete at the Bandar-e Khomeyni petrochemical complex by the Japanese was completed by Iranian experts very easily. Hundreds of our factories are using the raw materials produced by that complex. [passage omitted]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has been the most successful one since the revolution. Were it anyone else, the achievements would have been no greater. On top of the numerous projects that have become operational, we are witnessing the inauguration of new projects daily. These are mostly long-term projects that will be completed at the end of his tenure of office. The revolution in all its aspects has never had such brilliant, clear, and hopeful prospects as it has today.

[RESALAT] The Majles recently appraised the bill for the second [Five-Year] Plan and, in some of its decisions, the increase in the price of fuel products has been forecast. Do you think that this will have political repercussions and have you thought of a solution?

[Nateq-Nuri] First, our people are alert and I do not believe that they will display a political reaction over a rise in fuel prices. The people know that the continuing trend of fuel consumption—at the same rate as in the PRC, a country of 1 billion people—is not feasible. It would result in the depletion of our resources in about 10 years and we would be unable to export any oil because we would be using it ourselves!

The representatives of our people thought that one way to curb this consumption was to raise prices. We should seek other avenues to control energy consumption by instituting austerity measures. The effects of this

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increase in prices will be evident in other departments but the government and the Majles are seeking to make this process as painless as possible.

You need to consider the more vulnerable stratum. Prices could go higher. But it is estimated that salaries will also be revised, God willing, and we hope we will have no problems.

[RESALAT] How do you view the relationship between the Cabinet and the Majles? Some perceive the differences in viewpoints of the Majles experts and the government experts as the sign of a rift between the Majles and the Cabinet. What is your view in the context of the bill for the second [Five-Year] Plan?

[Nateq-Nuri] I think that there has never been more actual and sincere cooperation between the cabinet and the Majles which has had such correct and logical bases. The Majles does not accept anything from the cabinet without an accurate appraisal, and vice versa. We have had some useful experiences in this regard on the issue of the single parity rate for foreign exchange, the debate on the budget bill for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] and for the bills pertaining to the second Plan. These experiences have lent a new meaning to the words: cooperation, understanding, collaboration, and unanimity.

At present, the experts in the Majles and the cabinet propound issues and discuss them in a wholesome atmosphere with no tensions whatsoever and both of them forge ahead by selecting the best possible way. This was evident in the case of the compilation commission recently when the two sides frequently expressed their satisfaction at this situation. [passage omitted]

In addition, the three branches of the government, that is, the executive, the judicial, and the legislative, enjoy the highest level of cooperation and harmony, which was rarely seen in previous terms. This is why we have the most capable system today, as there is no sign of even the slightest political tension.

[RESALAT] In any case, how do you justify the fact that the Majles has clashed with the government in the performance of its obligations of supervision, investigation and inquiry, and interrogation?

[Nateq-Nuri] The Majles has the right to supervise, investigate, and interrogate. The implication of support of the government does not mean that this obligation of the Majles be eliminated. The government does not have such expectations from the Majles. It is for this reason that in all the matters that resulted in an investigation and inquiry did not smack of vengeance. There was healthy and constructive criticism and this is right.

We are experiencing democracy based on divine criteria. Since there are many who only know the Eastern or Western version of democracy, they expect a power struggle, but this is not to be! If we act on ethical and divine tenets, squabbles or quarrels will not result. This is quite evident in the fourth Majles and will be valuable experience for the future.

[RESALAT] Your Excellency, as the speaker of the Majles, you are well-aware of the problems of the people and the complexities of the era of construction. Our enemies are constantly disseminating propaganda against the revolution and pointing out the problems. All their hopes are pinned on the day when the people will be so overwhelmed by economic problems that they will turn their backs on the revolution. How does Your Excellency appraise their analysis?

[Nateq-Nuri] I am well-aware of the problems and tribulations of the people. I know that they endured the hardships of a merciless war for eight years and cannot be conveniently expected to grapple with economic problems as well. Of course, the government and the Majles consider their greatest concern to be the support of the oppressed and the backing of the deprived strata. Therefore, it has been decided in the second 5-year Plan that we will not tamper with subsidies for essential goods and we will even boost them more. This is because we want the people to at least enjoy comfort as regards food.

If you look around, there is no government in the world that is making such calculations in its economic planning. Thus they endorse the poverty and deprivation of the weaker stratum as it does not conform with their economic models. However, despite all our problems we are not being influenced by these matters and we can confidently state that we are trying to procure food for the people at minimum cost so that there may be no worry in this regard.

On the other hand, you can see there is no country that does not have economic problems and every country is somehow embroiled in economic difficulties.

Even closer to home, if you look around you will see the newly independent countries that are burning in the crucible of war, pressure, and famine in Afghanistan, in Iraq. Turkey, which was quite stable in the past, is now grappling with severe inflation and instability. Unfortunately, it is Western propaganda that depicts our country as poor and famine-stricken, though any sensible person who comes to Iran sees a picture that contrasts by a 180 degrees from that projected by the enemies' propaganda.

The wishes of the Westerners are nothing more than a delusion. People who have sacrificed their lives and property to safeguard a divine revolution will not turn their backs on it for the sake of a few shortages or high prices. We would certainly want the enemies to continue wallowing in their foolish concepts and not to realize how powerful the bases of our revolution are. This will result in blatant errors regarding any decisions against our revolution. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, our people enthusiastically tell us to stand firm and not to give in and it is because of their

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backing that we say that the powers of world arrogance and the United States cannot do anything.

[RESALAT] Since you have mentioned the United States, we want to hear it directly from Your Excellency. Do you not think that the Americans and the Israelis are increasing their pressure daily?

[Nateq-Nuri] At the last G-7 session, the Americans and British were insistent on continuing their hostility toward Iran and strove to enlist the concurrence of the leaders of the industrial countries. They wished to step up pressure to the extent that we should be forced to renege on our stance with regard to the so-called Middle East peace. Israel is gradually mending fences with its neighbors so that it does not have any threats on its borders. On the other hand, it is seeking to delegate the suppression of the Islamic Revolution in Palestine to 'Arafat. In its opinion, Iran is the one thwarting these equations.

We believe, on the other hand, that the Islamic Revolution in Palestine is mature enough to defend itself. The Muslim people in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and so on, have such a high level of acumen and vigilance that they do not officially recognize such worthless words written on paper in the name of peace.

Nevertheless, the Westerners wish to capitalize on the ploy of human rights against the Islamic Republic of Iran and endeavor to portray an ugly image of Iran in the world. Attributing the explosion in the Jewish center in Buenos Aires without any reason or documentary evidence is one such dastardly action.

As regards our relations with the United States, there has been no change. The United States is still the number one enemy of the Iranian nation and as long as this situation continues, we reject all kinds of relations with that country.

[RESALAT] Allow me to return to cultural issues. You know that satellite dishes are sprouting up on rooftops like mushrooms every day and the issue is under discussion in the Majles. My question is: Why does the Majles not show the requisite sensitivity to this issue? The more time passes, the less chance there is of a correct decision in this regard. What is the reason for this delay?

[Nateq-Nuri] The Majles has the important topic of the bill for the second 5-year Plan on its agenda. Besides, the plan on tackling the satellite dishes had not been finalized by the Islamic Guidance and Culture Committee. It is now ready and will be incorporated into the Majles agenda according to regulations. In addition, the Islamic Guidance and Culture Committee has expended much effort on the subject by utilizing the opinions of experts.

As regards the satellites, most of the 'ulema and authorities expressed their immense apprehension in answer to the questions put to them. The concerned individuals as well as the intelligentsia in our society have also warned of this danger. Therefore, in my opinion we do not have any major problems in this regard. The system will carry out its responsibility of safeguarding and protecting the divine and cultural values and will not permit the waves of satellite television which propagate the decadent culture, nudity, and flippancy to threaten our society. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] Thank you for your time.

[Nateq-Nuri] Likewise, please accept my thanks.

Tehran on Streamlining, Merging Ministries

NC1209103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] At yesterday's open session of the Islamic Majles, the bill for the merger of the Ministries of Industry and Heavy Industries was debated by the deputies. According to the single article of this bill, from the time of the approval of this law, the Ministries of Industry and Heavy Industries will be merged to form a new ministry which will be called the industries ministry. The manifesto of this ministry will be presented to the Majles after the approval by the cabinet of ministers. Similarly, the credits allocated to the new ministry during 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] will be comprised of the total credits of the two ministries. It is worth mentioning that it had been proposed earlier that the three ministries, namely, Industries, Heavy Industries, and Mines and Metals should be merged to form the new industries ministry. This proposal was not accepted by the committee for the Mines and Industry of the Islamic Majles. This is because, from the perspective of the Majles, one of the areas in which non-oil exports can succeed is in the field of minerals. Therefore, the Mines and Industry committee concluded that the Mines and Metals Ministry should continue to function independently.

A glance at the performance of the industries sector in the first 5-Year Plan indicates that this sector had registered an annual growth of 13 percent on the average in the Plan period. In other words, 90 percent of the current objectives of the industries sector have been reached. Similarly, on the basis of the announcement of the Ministry of Industries, in the course of the first development Plan, $17.5 billion has been allocated for industrial production. In all, this sector has accounted for $3.3 billion from all the non-oil exports in the past five years, which is only 55 percent of the amount envisaged by the first Plan.

According to our experts on industrial issues, in the past three decades, the industrial ministries in Iran have frequently merged and again separated from one another. Basically, in a centralized government economy, since industrial ministries are themselves responsible for the executive affairs of the production units, they are forced to be divided among a number of

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various ministries so that each of them can administer the industrial units. In an open economy, however, with the presence of a private sector, there is no need for a multiplicity of industrial ministries. A unified set-up manages the extensive policymaking affairs in the industry sector and the executive affairs of the production units are administered by the managers of these units.

Thus, in the course of the imposed war when the allocation of foreign exchange, sale of products, and the management of production was in the government's hands, a number of industries ministries appeared extremely necessary for a division of labor. Now, in an era of reconstruction when there is no need for a surfeit of industrial ministries, the streamlining of the country's administrative structure in the field of industry is on policymakers' agenda. By eliminating the existing structural bottlenecks in the path of the industries, the infrastructural problems may be resolved and the specialization of resources in industry should have concomitant optimal benefits.

Pakistan

President on Iran Visit, Opposition March

BK1309033394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Iran supports Pakistan's stand on Kashmir, and it has offered to work as a mediator for a settlement of this dispute with India. Addressing a news conference on his return to Islamabad last night after paying a three-day state visit to Iran, he said Pakistan desires peace and is ready to accept any conciliatory efforts or mediation by any third party to settle the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan is also ready for bilateral or trilateral talks to resolve this problem according to the relevant UN resolutions.

Regarding Afghanistan, the president said he believes positive progress toward peace will be made. He stressed that the two major groups in Afghanistan should understand that peace cannot be established in their country without a just settlement of the conflict.

Farooq Leghari said Pakistan and Iran will endeavor to increase bilateral cooperation in economic, industrial, and technical fields. The two sides have decided to double their border trade and to extend full cooperation in curbing narcotics smuggling.

Answering a question, the president categorically stated that Pakistan does not have an atomic bomb nor does it intend to manufacture one. He described the opposition leader's statement in this regard as regrettable, which will create difficulties for Pakistan.

Replying to a question about the opposition's train march, President Leghari expressed the hope that such marches will end soon and that sensible elements will succeed in persuading the opposition to adopt the straight path. There is complete political and economic stability in the country, the president observed.

Bhutto Leaves for 5-Day Visit to Morocco, Spain

BK1209055394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad early this morning on her way to Fez for a five-day official visit to Morocco and Spain. During her brief stopover at Lahore, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told Radio Pakistan's correspondent that the prime minister's visit will help promote the existing friendly relations, especially the economic ties, between our countries. He said the prime minister will also discuss regional and international issues with the leaders of the two countries, with special focus on Pakistan's efforts to resolve the Kashmir dispute with India. She will apprise the leaders of Morocco and Spain of the gross human rights violations by Indian forces. The foreign minister said that the prime minister's visit to Morocco assumes special significance, because an important conference is due to be held in that country toward the end of this year, which will take up a number of questions of importance to Pakistan. On her arrival in Fez later today, the prime minister will call on King Hassan of Morocco. Moroccan Prime Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali will host a banquet in her honor in the evening. Formal talks between the two prime ministers will be held tomorrow. Benazir Bhutto will also address a conference of envoys later.

The prime minister will arrive in Madrid to begin her visit to Spain on Tuesday [13 September] evening. She will hold formal talks with her Spanish counterpart, Felipe Gonzalez, on Wednesday. During her stay in Spain, the prime minister will also call on King Juan Carlos and the queen. She will also address the conference of Pakistani envoys. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent says that during her visit to Morocco and Spain, Benazir Bhutto will hold talks with the leaders of the two countries on important regional and international issues, with special reference to the Kashmir dispute.

U.S. 'Threats' Over Chinese Missiles Criticized

BK1209155594 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 12 Sep 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Chinese Missiles: U.S. Threats Against Pakistan, India's Missile Production, and the World Community's Negative Attitude"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has threatened Pakistan and the PRC with new economic sanctions. Speaking to reporters the other day, a State Department spokesman said that no authentic or confirmed evidence has been received about the supply of Chinese M-11 missiles to Pakistan. He added, however, that if these reports are found to be true the United States would not refrain from imposing fresh economic sanctions against

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the two countries. Both Pakistan and China have officially denied that Pakistan has acquired M-11 missiles from China. These missiles are the equivalent of the Indian Prithvi missiles, although they are better in some respects. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman described reports published in the U.S. press that China has supplied the M-11 missile and its technology to Pakistan as baseless and fabricated.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also rejected the U.S. press reports. He rightly told the U.S. authorities that instead of Pakistan, they should exert pressure on India to stop its missile program, which has become a serious threat in the Southeast [as published] Asian region. Commenting on U.S. press reports, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said: We have repeatedly denied receiving M- 11 missiles from China. The foreign minister said the U.S. spokesman himself acknowledged they do not have any proof of the supply of Chinese missiles and technology to Pakistan. Still Pakistan is being pressed. The United States is unwilling to do anything about India's Prithvi and Agni missiles. India has not only manufactured the Prithvi missile but has deployed it along Pakistan's borders. The Agni is now being tested, but the United States is indifferent to it.

Two disturbing reports were published in influential U.S. newspapers the other day that said China has not only supplied the M-11 missile to Pakistan but has decided to transfer its technology as well. The second report, citing a Congressional committee, said that with Chinese help Pakistan has become capable of producing a "uranium"-based nuclear bomb, that India is now producing hydrogen bombs, and that the two countries are capable of delivering nuclear weapons to their targets on aircraft or missiles.

It is true that the basic U.S. policy is to impose economic sanctions to curb the nuclear arms race in the Indian subcontinent. In reality, however, the United States is pursuing a prejudicial policy against Pakistan. India carried out a nuclear blast in May 1974. It has been manufacturing nuclear weapons ever since. Now, according to the U.S. Congressional report, it is producing hydrogen bombs. Pakistan had been warning the world powers since 1974 to restrain India from producing nuclear weapons, saying it would otherwise trigger a nuclear arms race in the region for which the world community would be responsible. Recently, when India announced the military-scale production of the Prithvi missile and its deployment along the Pakistani border, Pakistan again cautioned the world community that this Indian move would spark a missile race in the region.

This Indian move has greatly aggravated the security situation in this region. The truth, however, is that the world community—especially the sole superpower—did not heed Pakistan's protests. On the contrary, it took political and economic steps meant to pat India on the back. The world powers ignored the Indian military buildup out of self-interest. These powers, including the United States, want to use India as a market. The biased policy of the United States and other powers has affected Pakistan, a country on which the United States has already imposed all kinds of restrictions under the Pressler Amendment.

India, in pursuit of its hegemonic designs in this region, is engaged in a military buildup. It is producing nuclear and hydrogen bombs and missiles to deliver these bombs to their targets. We feel justified in asking the world community if they really think that Pakistan should not react to these Indian moves and turn itself into a sitting duck for India. Pakistan has definitely acquired the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. It has shown great restraint and self-assessment, however, in announcing that it will not manufacture nuclear weapons. What has it received in return for this gesture? Today, India has become a threat to Pakistan's security. Despite this, it is Pakistan that is being threatened by the United States and its allies.

In this context, the attitude of the Pakistani Government and the leaders of the ruling party deserves notice. After the "announcement" of the existence of a "nuclear bomb" by opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, it has been said repeatedly that the United States will now impose more restrictions on Pakistan. Viewed from this perspective, the U.S. threat to impose restriction on Pakistan on the pretext of the M-11 missiles is like threatening "a frightened country." The fact is that the United States has already imposed all kinds of restrictions on Pakistan; now it is talking about new restrictions in an attempt to intimidate it further. The United States has imposed sanctions on Iran, Libya, and other countries. It is in an active state of confrontation with North Korea that is still continuing. Those countries have maintained their existence and are becoming stronger every day. What is imperative is for Pakistan's leaders to gear up and try to stand on their own feet in the sphere of economics as well as defense.

Visiting Afghan Minister Holds News Conference

BK1109121994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Islamabad—Afghan Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafraie Monday described reports of his government receiving any military aid from India as "completely baseless".

Addressing a press conference at the Afghan Embassy here, he said the reports were spread by the anti-government coalition led by Golboddin Hekmatyar to justify their defeat in their attack on Kabul earlier this year.

He said some relief goods were given by India but they were negligible. He said, however, that commercial activity between the two countries continues.

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The Afghan Foreign Minister said the Islamic Foreign Minister conference's [ICFM] resolution on Afghanistan has once again put his country at the top of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] agenda. He said it will help solve the Afghan problem and give new momentum to ICO Secretary General Hamid al- Ghabid's peace initiative.

"We hope the ICO now will put pressure on those countries who are interfering in Afghan internal affairs and arming the opposition to stop this activity," he said.

Mr. Lafraie did not disclose the names of the countries he blamed for interfering in his country's affairs. "You know which countries these are."

The Afghan foreign minister said there was the unfair impression among the participants of the ICFM moot that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbbani was responsible for the present imbroglio in that country.

He said the UN Secretary General's [UNSG] special envoy for Afghanistan, Mehmoud Mestiri, had announced the failure of his mission's second round in Afghanistan and unfairly held the government responsible.

He said the Mehmoud Mestiri had tried to start from the negative points instead of building on the common ground between the parties.

Mr. Lafraie said the UNSG's envoy officially invited Rashid Dostam to participate in the talks. He said the Afghan government cannot sit with the warlord.

Commenting on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's suggestion of bringing independent personalities to the negotiations, he said: "If he means to bring in new leaders, then we already have too many. Besides, there are few independent persons in Afghanistan. But if he means to have new advisors on Afghanistan, that is his internal matter."

[illegible] the Herat Commission set up under Nabi [illegible]ammadi was the best hope for solving the problem. [illegible]d his government wants the commission to be very [illegible]tative and independent. Mr. Lafraie said Nabi Muhammadi is a neutral person and no one doubts his integrity.

'Second Phase' of Antigovernment March Begins

BK1209052094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group [PML-N] and its allied parties left Karachi aboard the Khyber Mail last night in the second phase of their so-called Movement for Deliverance. They included PML-N chief Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; Awami National Party chief Ajmal Khattak; and Sahabzada Fazal Karim, the acting chief of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan-Niazi Group. They reached Cantonment Railway Station in a procession from the tomb of the Great Leader [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] where they were seen off by a gathering of their parties' workers. The gathering was later addressed by Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Ajmal Khattak, and others. They criticized several policies of the government and said they will continue their movement until the success is achieved.

Government Calls March 'Unwarranted'

BK1109150694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] An official spokesman said in Islamabad last night that the government will not create any obstacles to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif group's planned train march [to oust the government]. He, however, emphasized that any type of demonstration should be peaceful. The spokesman said it appears that the opposition intends to create a law and order situation by confronting law enforcement agencies. He added that the opposition leader wants to save his business empire through the march. He made it clear that the elections were held only a year ago and any current protest is unwarranted.

JKLL Merges With PPP in Azad Kashmir

BK0809161694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League [JKLL] has been merged with the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] of AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir]. This was announced by JKLL President Barrister Sultan Mahmud at a special ceremony in Islamabad today. He said the decision was taken to make a common cause of liberation of held Kashmir from foreign occupation. Barrister Sultan Mahmud said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has highlighted the Kashmir issue at international forms in an effective manner.

Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, said JKLL's decision for merger with PPP is timely as ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting in Islamabad is deliberating the Kashmir question. He said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's inaugural address in the meeting has [word indistinct] world attention to the Kashmiri cause. Senator Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad lauded the decision to merge the JKLL with PPP and said all the parties should unite and work for the progress and prosperity of the country.

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